Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-211
Thursday
2 November 1989

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FBIS-NES-89-211 *2 November 1989*

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Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-GC Again Denies Link With Lockerbie Crash

JN0211124989 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1120 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Statement by the "official spokesman" of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC); date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Certain Western media have been disseminating false allegations and accusations against the PFLP-GC, holding it responsible for the crash of the Panam airliner. Since the plane's crash in December 1988, the CIA and Mosad organs have not stopped fabricating stories against our front without giving any material evidence of the front's responsibility.

While reiterating our denial of the U.S. and other reports, which have renewed the talk about the front's responsibility for the crash, the PFLP-GC reaffirms the following points:

1. We have repeatedly and on many occasions denied any PFLP-GC responsibility for the Panam crash, using various media. In view of the new hostile campaign, we reaffirm yet again that the U.S. officials' allegations and THE NEW YORK TIMES' report are only sheer lies that have obscurantist political dimensions.

2. The so-called Muhammad abu-Talib, who is detained in Sweden on charges of participating in terrorism, has no connection whatsoever with the PFLP-GC. Moreover, the PFLP-GC has no detainees in Sweden's jails.

3. We demand that all parties making these allegations provide the material evidence they have to prove their statements instead of indulging in speculations and tendentious make-believe.

4. We place these facts before international public opinion and we are certain that the farcical U.S. allegations are intended to divert attention from our people's intifadah inside Palestine and distort our national struggle by accusing us of actions that go against our march of struggle and contravene our traditions and our understanding of our national armed struggle against the Zionist enemy.

[Signed] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

'Abd-Rabbuh Denies Early Session of PLO-U.S. Talks

JN0211111389 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 31 Oct 89 p 30

[From Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Excerpt] A high-level Palestinian source has denied reports that a fifth PLO-U.S. dialogue session will be held soon. Answering a question by AL-ANBA' as to the truth behind a report to this effect by a mass circulation Tunisian newspaper, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, said: "I know absolutely nothing of this."

'Abd-Rabbuh had earlier met for 2 hours with U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, who usually heads the U.S. side in the dialogue.

On another level, 'Arafat yesterday met with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in the presence of Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, and Palestinian Ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi.

Informed Palestinian sources said that 'Arafat asked the Tunisian president, who is scheduled to pay an official visit to the United States, to obtain explanations concerning U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan, which Palestinian officials such as Salah Khalaf, Khalid al-Hasan, and Bassam Abu Sharif were careful not to reject outright in their recent statements. [passage omitted]

Fatah To Convene Revolutionary Council Midmonth

LD0211112589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1003 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis, Nov 2 (KUNA)—A Central Committee meeting of the Fatah movement, main component of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has scheduled a meeting of the movement's Revolutionary Council for the mid of this month to discuss latest Palestinian developments.

A committee statement, issued here last night at the end of a three-day session, also appreciated the address made by French President Francois Mitterrand before the European Council, particularly references in respect of the Palestinian cause.

In the address made in the European Parliament last week, President Mitterrand has denounced Zionist repression against the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and emphasized the Palestinians' right of self-determination as well as the right of nations in the area to live within safe boundaries.

The Central Committee session, chaired by President of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat, also reviewed the overall political situation, exerted peace efforts and conditions inside the occupied lands against the background of stepped up Zionist atrocities, particularly in the township of Bayt Sahur.

Meausres to deal with the brutal Zionist terror campaign and lend support to the ongoing Palestinian intifadah were also discussed by the Fatah Central Committee, the statement concluded.

Al-Hasan on 10 Points, U.S. Stand

JN0111202089 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
31 Oct 89 pp 27,30

[Interview with Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee and head of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Palestine National Council, by Muhammad Khalid al-Qutmah; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Qutmah] Is the dialogue the PLO is holding with the United States useful in any way?

[Al-Hasan] The Palestinian-U.S. dialogue cannot so far be called a dialogue. It consists of public relations meetings, ice-breaking, an exchange of platitudes. When there is a new U.S. stand, a copy of this new stand is sent or read without being given to the negotiating delegation. The one who always initiates the meeting is the U.S. ambassador. I believe that part of this dialogue is to find out the level of the Palestinian leadership's mind regarding its qualifications and capabilities and whether it is qualified to run a state or not, in addition to gaining time. The United States is stalling because it is forced to edge forward slowly. Undoubtedly, there are those who curse the United States for being insensitive to the Palestinian people's suffering. There is no emotion in politics. In its policies, the United States is void of human compassion. It does not think about how much the Palestinian people, or any other people, are suffering. Johnson said previously that if realizing the strategies of a superpower requires ending a nation, then this is to the bad luck of that nation since the strategies must be implemented. This is why there are no emotions or morals in politics. There are interests concealed behind morals. The U.S.-Israeli relationship is not based on friendship, love, morals, or principles. All this is empty talk. It is based on interests wrapped in morals, because the U.S. people reject immorality in politics. In the study presented by the special Institute for Strategic Studies to the White House in Washington under the title "Construction for Peace" there is a recommendation to stall U.S. activity to solve the Middle East question. In other words, the cause is a complicated one and to be able to bring the various sides to the negotiating table, one needs a long time; that is if one wants this to take place through understanding and without commands. Baker's nature is to stall. In addition, the course of national accord makes reaching a decisive and practical stand from the Palestine question occur only when the last page of the last chapter of international detente is signed. Therefore, the rhythm of U.S. action in the Palestine question beats to the rhythm of international detente, because no one can solve the Palestine question before making sure that all the requirments of the cold war have been cancelled.

As for the Israeli side, it is torn apart. Certain political shops have started to surface now in Israel. There are political shops for each of Shamir, Sharon, Arens, Levi, Begin junior, as well as Rabin and Peres. There is a struggle between the parties there—fierce struggles inside the same party. All this means preserving positions. Therefore, we notice that the absence of national agreement inside the Zionist entity contains extremism in the extreme right such as Kahane, Shamir, Arens, and Sharon. Then there are those who call for peace on the ground. Here I mean the people first and not the leaders only. All this makes the government's ability to take a decision a difficult issue since there is no majority as well as no unanimity in Israel now. This makes the United States stand before two decisions: Either to reach agreement with Israel to convince it gradually toward the required stand, or to confront Israel.

[Al-Qutmah] Do you believe that the confrontation between the United States and Israel is possible in the near and foreseeable future?

[Al-Hasan] The United States' interests prevent it from confronting Israel now. We must understand this very clearly. Therefore, it must work toward a gradual and voluntary change, regardless of the idea that there are economic and political pressure means. All this has not surfaced as confrontation. This is the other factor but it is semi-decisive concerning the subject of U.S. stalling. Here, we come to U.S. confrontation of the intifadah at its outset. What are the goals of the U.S. stand in dealing with the intifadah or its stands against it when the intifadah first started? The Arab stand in the international arena is worth nothing or even less than that. The Palestinian train in the international arena does not move without an Arab locomotive. The Arab locomotive is completely and fully out of order. The Arabs have fallen into the trap of what they constantly blame us of: resolutions expressing a principle or stand without any mechanism. Without the Arabs who have the means of pressure on the international arena—"the interests"—the Palestinian train in the international arena, comes to a halt. For this reason, the Palestine question was not discussed in the meeting between the two superpowers in June 1988 in Washington when the intifadah revolution first erupted. The intifadah has given the Palestine question or Palestinian struggle an Arab dimension from a negative perspective but with positive results.

[Al-Qutmah] How do you view the Arab concept of the future of the intifadah?

[Al-Hasan] The way the Arab masses have received the intifadah has immediately created a conviction that the intifadah might continue and spread to the Arab street [al-shari' al-'arabi]. Therefore, the United States hastened to present draft plans for solutions, all of which are aimed at holding elections intended to stop the intifadah. This is because taking the intifadah to the Arab street would pose a threat to U.S. plans and to all Western interests in the region.

The intifadah has compensated the Palestinian struggle for what it has lost as a result Arab incapability or Arab weakening. Regrettably, it later became apparent that

the Arab street did not possess leaders capable of supporting the intifadah on the level of the masses. Consequently, the United States began to outflank the intifadah. Outflanking the intifadah takes the form of exhausting it; and, in the absence of national leaders or national opposition parties that can motivate the masses, the Arabs can block its fire and prevent it from spreading to the Arab street. Of course, there is also the fear that if the masses take to the streets in support of the intifadah, they might rebel against the regime itself, because they are suffering from poverty and suppression of liberties. The process is really aimed at outflanking the intifadah and the best way to do that is by exhausting it—because once there is an intifadah on the popular level, no leadership would be able to silence its voice. Today, the masses are leading the leaders. By the way, the Palestine question throughout its life—and this is said regretfully or thankfully, only God knows—[sentence incomplete as published]. The masses have always carried and led their leadership, not the other way round. The masses are developed: Therefore, action is required to exhaust them and this exhaustion will be achieved when the struggling citizen in the occupied territory feels that he has a long way to go before he arrives. Only God knows if he will arrive or not. This means using time as a factor in frustration. The time factor in frustration came with Shamir's initiative, which was coordinated with the United States. There was coordination with the United States before it was proposed, particularly on the subject of elections, because Shamir does not want elections. The United States welcomed Shamir's initiative, but said it had asked friends and allies to help develop the initiatiave. Why? Because the United States wanted to cancel the Palestinian initiative that originated in Algiers and to replace it with an Israeli initiative. Thus, the Palestinians would be put on the defensive and refrain from presenting another initiative. The subject of elections was supposed to be a Palestinian initiative to push forward the basic initiative taken in Algiers. When Shamir raised the subject of elections, the new initiative became the topic of discussion and, consequently, we found ourselves in a defensive position. Accordingly, Shamir and the United States gained a year of the intifadah and we lost a year of the intifadah. This means exhaustion—further exhaustion.

Now there is a new approach—the Bayt Sahur approach—accompanied by a special belligerence aimed at destroying Palestinian morale in the territories, particularly religious morale. I mean to say that the Israelis were certain that the Arab position on the pan-Arab level was incapable of movement. Therefore, they wanted to tell us that, from a religious point of view, the Arab position was also incapable of movement. They laid down the foundation stone in front of the al-Aqsa mosque and desecrated the Ibrahimi mosque. They tore up the Koran and trampled it, and there was no reply whatsoever from the world.

Israel, then, wants to tell the Palestinians: Here are the Arabs: They are incapable of responding to the challenge posed by occupation, and they are incapable of replying to the religious challenge. There are 1 billion Muslims incapable of doing anything about their desecrated sanctities. So, you have no supporters on earth. Israel wants to tell the intifadah youths: You are alone against the wildest and ugliest bloodthirsty and racist colonialist force in history.

This is done in a clear attempt to thwart the revolutionary spirit of life raging in their souls.

[Al-Qutmah] There is talk about the PLO's position on the 10 points which were proposed by President Husni Mubarak. Sometimes it is said the PLO approved them before they were presented to the United States and Israel, and at other times it is said the PLO did not approve them. Without prejudicing your political tactics, I would like to know: Does the PLO consider the 10 points an integral plan which could lead to elections or to Palestinians expressing their opinion, and therefore to the international conference?

[Al-Hasan] Unfortunately, we in the Arab World are accustomed to revealing everything and frown upon those who conceal the facts. If tactics are revealed, they lose their value and serve the enemy. Palestinian-Egyptian meetings are continuous. Obviously, we do not spend our time just drinking coffee, but discussing politics. The main thing is that Egypt has put forth its questions. The PLO has adopted the following position: We will not give our opinion on these points because they were addressed to the Israeli Government. So we will wait for the Israeli Government's reply. This is the correct political position. Let us suppose we said that we rejected the 10 points. Shamir wooud not reject them, but would remain silent. He would say: The PLO rejected them so why do you want to know my opinion on them? And, if the PLO approved them, he would say that he was opposed to the PLO in the first place. Thus, the ball would be in our court not his. President Mubarak's questions have put Israel in a corner. If Israel approves them there would be elections in the democratic sense which nobody would criticise. And, if it rejects them, it would mean that Israel had rejected democracy. In either case, the Palestinian people would be the beneficiary. So we should wait and see what the Israeli position would be. So far, Israel has refused to discuss the 10 points, but it has not rejected the points themselves. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qutmah] What is your position on the Baker plan, that is if you will not be divulging any secrets or tactics?

[Al-Hasan] Baker's five points were addressed to us and we rejected them. These points were presented after the Israeli inner cabinet's meeting. They also concentrate on a meeting of the U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli ministers. We rejected the Baker plan just as Israel rejected it. Had we acted cleverly by waiting for Israel to reject the plan and then remained silent, the rejectionist Israeli position would have been the subject of criticism. We must

remember that our battle is a political and diplomatic one; a battle of the brain. [passage omitted]

PFLP Official on U.S. Stand, Peace Plans

JN0111213389 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 31 Oct 89 pp 20, 21

[Interview with Mustafa al-Zibri, PLO Executive Committee member and assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)-identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ali Mustafa, by Jasim al-Mutawwi', Muhammad Khaz'al, and Nicola Nasir in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] Jasim al-Mutawwi': AL-WATAN, which has previously had the honor of receiving you, welcomes you. You have visited us more than once, and this has always been a source of pleasure to us. We are always happy to see you because you inform us of developments in the Palestinian arena. Previously, you explained your perspective to us regarding the challenges and tasks facing the struggle—challenges and tasks pertaining to one of the most important issues concerning us. Today, we hope that you will tell us about the most recent developments in the Palestine question and in the Arab arena. We would appreciate it if you shed some light on the resolutions adopted by the recent PLO Central Council meetings.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa: I am glad to have this opportunity of meeting with you, particularly as AL-WATAN is a respectable newspaper, considering the role that it has been playing in the national and pan-Arab arenas. This newspaper has been playing the role of an honest communicator, conveying to readers correct news reports, publishing useful commentaries, and closely following all issues and events. [passage omitted]

A consideration of the developments which occurred during the period between the recent session of the PLO Central Council and the one preceding it showed that the numerous wagers on the possibility of obtaining speedy results from the U.S-Palestinian dialogue or on the usefulness of dealing with certain ideas, views, and initiatives have been to no avail. These developments have also proven that these wagers are shortsighted. Consequently, the cause as a whole, as well as the intifadah, have been confronted by attempts at political abortion. In our view, confronting these attempts is a priority task if the intifadah is to be defended and protected. The Shamir initiative is basically a U.S. plan reflecting a U.S. conception. This initiative seeks to upstage the Palestinian political initiative so as to confine all political efforts to endeavors revolving around the Shamir initiative. The Egyptian 10-point plan and recently Baker's five-point plan seek to achieve the same objective. The U.S. Administration is pursuing a policy of gradual political attrition with the aim of lowering the Palestinian national ceiling through making the Palestinians offer one concession after another. The U.S. Administration seeks to continue to pursue this policy until the moment when the political abortion of the intifadah is complete and until the Arab regimes begin to make public statements saying that there is no room for establishing an independent Palestinian state. Then, the U.S. Administration will launch its offensive to complete the Camp David process. This administration believes that the situation will be ripened through two factors. The first factor, which is a Palestinian national factor, envisages the abortion of the intifadah. The second factor is contingent upon making the Arab regimes show reluctance in their support for the establishment of a Palestinian state. We have seen this reluctance in Arab statements made to the effect that confederation [with Jordan] must be sought if it is found that it is impossible to establish a Palestinian state. During the last dialogue session with Pelletreau, it became clear that Pelletreau was impudent enough to ask the PLO to coerce the Palestinians of the occupied territories into dealing with the Shamir plan. He was impudent enough to tell his Palestinian interlocutors that the Palestinians have no choice but to deal with the Shamir plan and that there are no prospects for a solution outside this framework. This is what transpired during the last dialogue session.

During the four dialogue sessions, the U.S. Administration failed to make its stands known on the substantial issues contained in a PLO memorandum. These issues concern the U.S. Administration's stand on official recognition of the PLO, on the Palestinian national rights, and on the international conference. The U.S. Administration has failed to tackle these issues. We dwelt on this issue, which was discussed in the political report and also in the political deliberations of the PLO Central Council meetings. As you know, the statement issued by the Central Council strongly condemned the U.S. policy and the U.S. Administration. This condemnation was stronger than the condemnation contained in the statement issued by the PLO Central Council in its previous session. This was the result of a political assessment of the situation.

At the same time, the PLO Central Council touched on a host of positive developments concerning the Palestine question. These developments were represented by the statement issued by the Warsaw Pact countries which met in Bucharest, the statement issued by the EEC, which is viewed as a relative development in the European stance, and the statement issued by the Scandinavian states in Helsinki. Among these positive developments are also Canada's stand vis-a-vis the issue of moving to recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination, the Japanese stand, and the decision by the Nonaligned Movement to recognize the State of Palestine and accept it as a full member in the Movement. We have not failed to see these important political gains. However, we do not turn a blind eye to the fact that the U.S. Administration has continued to prevent the materialization of any political development in the West European stance. This U.S. effort seeks to prevent this West European stance from acquiring larger and more politically significant proportions. This was clear

in the statement issued by the seven biggest industrial nations. The statement issued by these nations was not as strong as the one issued by the Madrid EEC summit. This change reflected the U.S. stand and a U.S. attempt to prevent the West Europeans from playing a bigger role in resolving the Palestine question. The PLO Central Council pointed out that we reject all attempts, ideas, initiatives, plans, and proposals that undermine the Palestinian representation or our national rights.

PLO's Al-Surani Views Recent Peace Moves

PM0111161689 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 27 Oct 89 p 38

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member and Secretary Jamal al-Surani by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Following the Israeli inner cabinet's rejection of any direct negotiations with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo, do you think that the road to peace is again blocked, despite Egypt's 10 questions submitted in an attempt to end the deadlock?

Al-Surani: I believe that Israel cannot close the door in the face of the peace process, particularly since all international and regional organizations are fully convinced of the need to find a solution to the Palestinian problem and of the fact that the process is being obstructed by Tel Aviv, which relies on unlimited U.S. support in all fields. The latest example is that whereas the entire rest of the world voted against Israel's aggression crimes, the United States supported Israel and voted against the resolution. So if anyone is obstructing peace it is actually Washington. That is why it is the responsibility of the whole world press the United States to put pressure on Israel, particularly since a continuation of the current situation would reflect negatively on the stability and interests of the world's states. The United States must prove that it is a peaceloving state. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The Israeli attitude reflects insistence on the Shamir plan and rejection of the Egyptian proposals or queries. That means that there should be new moves. How do you envisage such moves?

Al-Surani: Israel came up with the so-called Shamir initiative. The Israelis then said that they could not find a Palestinian partner and that their initiative reached a dead end. [passage omitted]

Egypt then tried to find a way to a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue that would discuss everything and pave the way to an international conference attended by all parties including the five major powers to promote a just and peaceful settlement ensuring, above all, the right of self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

At any rate, a peaceful solution will remain the target, with the intifadah [uprising] continuing and escalating until the United States clearly says that it cannot, or does not want to, put pressure on Israel. Then we would have something to say, not only to Israel, but also to the United States. Our initiative and the Palestine National Council resolutions were not mere tactics but a strategy, but Israel has demonstrated that while calling for peace it prepares for war. Its manufacture of missiles with a range of 400 km and its production of chemical weapons confirm the aggressive racist nature of the Zionist entity and its failure to understand the historic phase through which the world is passing.

AL-HAWADITH: Rabin's statements in Cairo denoting some Israeli concessions, departing from the prevailing and declared Israeli position, attracted some attention—for example, the agreement to deal with a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside [the occupied territory]—but then the government took a stand which destroyed everything. How do you explain that?

Al-Surani: First, let me correct the word "concessions." Israel has usurped all Palestinian rights, so it would be no concession if it returned these rights. Second, events have proved that the Labor Party and the Likud are one and the same because they both say "no" to the PLO, "no" to self-determination, and "no" to a Palestinian state. They are both for settlement [of Israelis in occupied territory], expulsion of the Palestinians, and more crimes. The differences between them are in the words used, with Washington's support continuing. Everyone is playing for time, thinking that the intifadah can be destroyed, but the intifadah will survive and continue and will be escalated to levels that Israel has not even thought of if there is no response to the peace call. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: There is one important observation to make here: Despite the Israeli position, the PLO moves continue and the talk about the formation of a Palestinian delegation has not stopped, with delegations from the occupied territory visiting Egypt for that purpose.

Al-Surani: That confirms that our peace strategy is sincere. We are moving at all levels. The matter of the Palestinian delegation is a procedural formality because it is the PLO's right to form the Palestinian delegation. If Israel were to form the Palestinian delegation it would mean that Israel would be negotiating with itself, and I do not think that is the objective. Israel has said that it wanted a delegation from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and we have said that we want a delegation representing the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territory and formed by the PLO with the aim of preparing, with an Israeli delegation, for an international conference. We want international guarantees for us and for the Israelis.

AL-HAWADITH: From a Palestinian angle, how do you view Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's recent tour and his meeting with U.S. President George Bush?

Al-Surani: President Mubarak was reassuring about U.S. efforts. The United States accepted Cairo as the venue

for a Palestinian-Israeli meeting, approved the Egyptian queries, and agreed that the Palestinian delegation should consist of Palestinians from inside and outside and promised to convince the Israelis of that. However, we were surprised by the Israeli position and by the fact that they [the Americans] could not persuade Shamir, which neither we nor the rest of the world could understand. That is why the United States is now urgently reaffirming that the initiative is not at an end and that they will send an envoy to pursue these efforts. This confirms that the ball is now in the U.S. court and the United States should honor its responsibilities. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you not believe that continued efforts to start a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue could abort any rapprochement attempts with Syria?

Al-Surani: No, because the current Palestinian moves are within the framework of the Palestinian peace initiative approved at the Casablanca summit conference and passed as Arab resolutions approved by all. There were no objections or reservations from anyone about that initiative. We and Egypt are moving in that context. There are moves to bring about a Syrian-Palestinian meeting to clear the air between the two sides.

AL-HAWADITH: Has a date been set?

Al-Surani: No date has been set, but we are always ready for such a meeting. Good preparations are necessary if such a meeting is to succeed.

Indonesian Paper Interviews Faruq Qaddumi

BK3110123189 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 28 Oct 89 pp 24,25

["Excerpts" of interview with "Palestine Foreign Minister" Faruq Qaddumi by TEMPO correspondent Bambang Harymurti at Jakarta's Borobudur Hotel on 19 October]

[Text] [Harymurti] How do you feel since the Palestine embassy was opened in Jakarta?

[Qaddumi] I feel that our goal of regaining our homeland is getting nearer. The existence of our embassy in Jakarta reflects the recognition of our homeland.

[Harymurti] How many countries have recognized Palestine?

[Qaddumi] At the moment, we have 89 embassies throughout the world.

[Harymurti] Why didn't Yasir 'Arafat come to Jakarta for this occasion?

[Qaddumi] This is only a division of labor. Mr 'Arafat and President Suharto both agreed that I open the new embassy. Mr 'Arafat and I take turns in opening all the 89 embassies, depending on how busy he is.

[Harymurti] Why did it take a long time to open the Palestine embassy in Jakarta?

[Qaddumi] It was not so long. We asked the Indonesian Government to open the embassy only about 1 year ago.

[Harymurti] Is it true that the late Indonesian foreign minister Adam Malik offered to open the embassy in 1976?

[Qaddumi] President Suharto never promised a specific time for the opening of the embassy. There is no need for us to dig up the past. Our embassy is now open in Jakarta and relations between Palestine and Indonesia are always excellent.

[Harymurti] What do you expect from Indonesia?

[Qaddumi] We need all kinds of assistance, especially Indonesia's political support at international forums.

[Harymurti] There are still people who identify the PLO with terrorist activities. What is your comment on this view?

[Qaddumi] We are recognized by the majority of the UN member countries as a national liberation movement. Last year, we announced that we would use peaceful means to attain our goals. The Palestine National Council has also condemned all types of terrorism. Do not forget that we helped release American hostages in Lebanon. Our main objective is to regain our homeland.

[Harymurti] What did you discuss with President Suharto?

[Qaddumi] I thanked him for the opening of the Palestine embassy in Jakarta, and then he asked me what other support Indonesia could give. I replied that history shows Indonesia has always supported Palestine; therefore, Palestine is always sure of receiving Indonesia's support without having to ask for it. I also briefed President Suharto on the latest development in the efforts to solve the Palestine problem and expressed hope that Indonesia will be able to help us achieve peace through Indonesia's contacts with the United States, the United Nations, and Asian countries.

[Harymurti] Will Palestine support Indonesia to become the host of the next Nonaligned Movement summit?

[Qaddumi] This will of course be discussed at the meeting of Nonaligned Movement's Coordinating Bureau, and we will seek a compromise as to who is most suitable to host the summit. We will of course do our lobbying, but the outcome will be determined through voting [preceding word in English].

[Harymurti] Which country agreed to open the first Palestine embassy?

[Qaddumi] Algeria.

[Harymurti] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said his country is now at loggerheads with the United States.

because Israel has rejected Secretary of State James Baker's proposal. Does this mean that U.S. support for Israel has decreased?

[Qaddumi] I do not think so. U.S. foreign policy has always supported Israel. I believe the United States and Israel have drawn up a certain strategy in dealing with the Middle East problem, and they mean what they say. But what they have said is still far from fulfilling our proposals.

[Harymurti] What about the American people? Don't you think that they have changed their views?

[Qaddumi] I agree that the American people have changed their views on this matter, because they are shocked and share the sufferings of the Palestine people when they watch television. You know how the majority of the American people feel when they see how the Palestinian people are beaten and tortured and have their houses burned down by Israeli soldiers. Therefore, after the Intifadah [uprising] movement was launched, there was a shift of views among the American public. However, if this can become a catalyst that influences U.S. foreign policy, the process will still be slow. It takes time [three preceding words in English].

After all, the U.S. policy of supporting Israel is a geopolitical interest; it is not a matter of guilty feelings, like that suffered by Europe because of the Jewish problem in the past. While it is true that the Jewish community in the United States plays an important role in society, it does not mean that they have to deny our existence.

[Harymurti] Why wasn't the Palestine national anthem played at the embassy during the flag-hoisting ceremony?

[Qaddumi] Because this is only the beginning, and our ambassador has not arrived. When the ambassador is here, we will play the national anthem, called Biladi, Biladi—Our Homeland, Our Homeland. The ceremony at the embassy was also held in a simple manner because we must be modest and humble. It was a ceremony held while we are still fighting.

Leaders Welcome Mitterrand Speech on Palestine

PM3010162089 Paris LE MONDE in French 28 Oct 89 p 8

[Michel Deure dispatch: "PLO Welcomes Revival of Euro-Arab Dialogue"]

[Excerpt] Tunis—"By taking account of Western Europe's historical, political, and moral responsibility in the Palestinian tragedy, Mr Mitterrand has once again taken a historic step." It was in these terms that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi welcomed the president's speech on Thursday 26 October.

Mr Mitterrand's remarks were also welcomed by the PLO. "By adopting such a clear attitude on the Palestinian problem and by advocating the revival of Euro-Arab dialogue at this time, Mr Mitterrand has shown international public opinion that U.S. policy in the Near East is ineffectual and has merely produced deadlock," Abu- Ja'far, director of the PLO political department, said. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Arafat, Delegation Arrive in Cairo 1 Nov

NC0111205489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2022 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this evening. He is accompanied by a delegation consisting of PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Fatah Central Committee member Mrs Intisar al-Wazir, alias Umm Jihad.

'Arafat was welcomed at the airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, foreign ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs.

He was also welcomed by PLO Executive Committee Members Jamal al-Surani and 'Abdallah al-Hurani, by Palestine's Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and by Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo.

Received by Mubarak

NC0211114689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Palace this morning. They discussed recent developments connected with the search for a solution to the Palestinian issue.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Dr Mustafa al-Fiqi, the president's information secretary, also attended the meeting. Representing the Palestinian side at the talks were Jamal al-Surani, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abdallah al-Hurani, Sa'id Kamal, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Israeli-South Africa Nuclear Cooperation Decried

NC0111230089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary "What Will the Big Powers Responsible for Peace Do Regarding Israeli Nuclear Activities?"]

[Text] The cooperation between Israel and South Africa is not a new or surprising story. Both countries are in similar circumstances, adhere to racist policies, consider the original people second-class citizens, ignore the United Nations and its resolutions, and use brutal means to quell liberation movements. Moreover, Israel and South Africa have established a ring of hostilities around them fanned by their illegal behavior violating international law. Thus, it was only natural that Israel and South Africa should cooperate in all spheres, particularly in the most dangerous, the nuclear area.

The two countries constitute an axis for the production of nuclear arms and fighter aircraft based on U.S. technology. Israel is providing South Africa with this technology in return for concentrated uranium from Pretoria. Israel refused to sign the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. It also refused more than once to allow UN and U.S. experts to inspect its nuclear plant in Dimona. The latest incidence of Israeli involvement in missiles carrying nuclear warheads was announced by the Soviet Union, which said that Israel fired a test missile with a 1,600-km range in the Mediterranean.

Despite these public reports, the big powers responsible for world peace refuse to rivet attention on the Israeli position. This comes at a time when the two superpowers agree on reducing nuclear arms, eliminating medium-range missiles, and forging ahead with their plans for disarmament or arms limitation.

In fact, we see no reason or justification for worry or fear from rumors about the likelihood that Pakistan possess nuclear arms. We indeed see no interest in the facts regarding Israel's definite nuclear danger. The capabilities for making atomic weapons are now within the reach of many countries. Control of this potential would be difficult and even impossible, particularly if a certain country were allowed to possess this type of weapon, because every action has a reaction. Any state insisting on defying the world and possessing nuclear arms and threatening others would be met by similar insistence by its neighboring countries.

Undoubtedly, the international nuclear nonproliferation treaty will be useless if certain countries are shown forbearance in possessing such arms. Israel is persisting in defying world peace and security in its attempts to possess nuclear arms. A few years ago, the United States caught certain Israeli agents in the United States trying to smuggle nuclear technology to Israel.

What is required now is not to release warning statements to Israel about continuing this nuclear course. We demand that the international community, the United Nations, and the big powers insist on placing the Israeli atomic reactors, particularly those in Dimona, under vigilant supvervision and inspection. We believe that the Pretoria-Tel Aviv axis must motivate the Arabs and Africans to close their ranks further to confront this hazard.

It remains to be said that nuclear arms and atomic bombs may be fit for wars, but liberation movements, people's struggle, and popular will cannot be confronted by this type of weapon, because they have nothing to do with conventional security theories. By its nuclear plans, Israel is destroying the hope for peace and is arousing world-wide worry. Even the closest friends of Israel are not concealing their annoyance over this behavior. (Henry Skoltky), assistant deputy under secretary for the nonproliferation of nuclear arms affairs in the national security office in the Pentagon, [title, office as heard]

said before a congressional committee that the Israeli liaison with South Africa is a serious matter for the highest echelons in the Pentagon and that such cooperation is not in the interest of anyone's security. The question posed now is what the big powers that are responsible for peace will do regarding this danger.

Cooperation Elicits 'Concern'

NC0111230889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Egypt has expressed its concern over international media reports that have been confirmed by official U.S. sources on cooperation between Israel and South Africa on developing missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The Foreign Ministry today contacted Israeli ambassador in Cairo Shim'on Shamir and underlined Egypt's concern over these reports. It said that Israeli cooperation with South Africa constitutes a threat to African countries and the Middle East. This cooperation contradicts international efforts in general and those of the United States and the Soviet Union in particular in halting the production of this type of missile, destroying the stocks, and preventing the proliferation of warheads. An official source in the Foreign Ministry has stated that Egypt had earlier requested Israel sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

U.S. Reaction Viewed

JN0111175689 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Oct 89 p 16

[Untitled article by Ahmad Baha' al-Din carried within the "Diary" column]

[Text] In its issue yesterday, AL-AHRAM published a dispatch from the head of its Washington bureau Hamdi Fu'ad that President George Bush has asked for a comprehensive reassessment of U.S. policy and stands on the deployment of nuclear weapons and their technology. This is after the exposure of Israel's cooperation with South Africa on the production of nuclear weapons and a fighter plane based on U.S. technology in exchange for enriched uranium from Pretoria. At a news conference yesterday, the U.S. President said that if the reports on the nuclear cooperation between Israel and South Africa prove to be true, relations between the United States and Israel will become complicated. He stressed that Washington vehemently opposes the transfer of such technology to a third country. A U.S. State Department spokesman said that President Bush's administration is following up the situation and will suspend the export of the technology dealing with missiles to a specific country when it fully ascertains that this country is transferring it to a third country. The U.S. spokesman said: We have voiced our concern to Israel over the issue of the transfer and deployment of these weapons. Officials are greatly concerned about the possibility of Israel's obtaining a U.S. super computer that is used for developing military research out of fear that it may use it to produce hydrogen bombs and leak its secrets to South Africa.

I believe that President Bush is truly concerned about this although I am surprised that he does not know about the 15-year-old secret. I understand President Bush's concern about the transfer of U.S. secrets to third parties in view of the impact this may have on many U.S. stands on the international level. However, the transfer of this U.S. technology only to Israel with a guarantee that it will not be leaked to a third party, has been an inconvenience to us, the Arabs. These weapons in Israel, which is not a third party, knock only at our doors, are a source of threat to us alone, and raise a hue and cry against the United States only in our region where every individual wonders in exchange for what have these things been leaked only to Israel, which is daily rejecting a U.S. initiative, idea, or advice in one form or the other?

I do not know why Israel is worried about the concern voiced by the United States, which only uses the weapon of "concern" against it, a weapon which is so ineffective.

Senegalese Minister on Dispute With Mauritania

NC0111120289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Senegalese Foreign Minister Ibrahima Fall has emphasized that President Husni Mubarak, who is the current OAU chairman, gives special attention to finding a peaceful, overall, and final solution to the dispute between Mauritania and Senegal.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, the Senegalese minister said President Mubarak is exerting efforts to persuade the two sides of the need to accept this peaceful, comprehensive, and final solution. He pointed out that in order for this settlement to be comprehensive, it must contain all the components of the problem, including those related to borders, human rights, and the property held by the two parties, noting that approximately 48,000 Mauritanians have been transferred to Senegal.

He said the purpose of his current visit to Egypt is to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries, which are both members of various regional and international organizations, and to prepare and coordinate for the summit of the Islamic Conference Organization member states in Dakar in 1991. He said the visit is of particular importance since Egypt chairs the current OAU session and, therefore, is considered the official spokesman for Africa at this important stage, in which efforts are being made to seek the liberation of Africa's southern region and solve other disputes, including the dispute between Mauritania and Senegal. He noted that he had held talks in this respect with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Regarding the developments in the dispute with Mauritania, Fall said the problem reached a dead end because Mauritania refused to include the border issue on the agenda of the committee [formed by OAU to resolve the

dispute], although what had occurred was no more than a border problem. He said that Mauritania's refusal is strange because Mauritania had agreed to the French decree issued on 8 December 1933 delineating the borders. The decree, he added, clearly states that the borders between Senegal and Mauritania lie on the right bank of the main branch of the Senegal river. He noted that the recent clashes took place on a river island which was part of Senegal's territory because the borders fall the on right bank of the river. However, Mauritania claims that the clashes took place on its territory, thus considering this island part of its territory. The Senegalese minister asked: How could Mauritania claim that the problem is one of borders while at the same time it refuses to discuss the issue with the Egypt-led OAU 6-member committee whose goal is to settle the dispute in accordance with OAU principles; namely, noninfringement on the borders of other countries, nonintervention in domestic affairs, and respect for human rights.

He affirmed that his country is ready to accept a peaceful, comprehensive, and final settlement, but once again it is Mauritania that is obstructing the committee work by refusing to admit the core of the dispute; that is, the border problem. He hoped Mauritania will facilitate the work of the committee that will visit both Mauritania and Senegal at the end of November or early December. The committee is led by Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs.

Asked how far the OAU efforts have progressed in resolving the dispute, Fall said these efforts led to some results, foremost being the present calm between the two countries. He noted, however, that this calm is relative and temporary, since clashes are currently taking place between Mauritanians who want to cross the Senegal river to regain their property and the Mauritanian security forces. He expressed fear that fighting between the two parties might break out once again should Mauritania insist on blocking the committee's work and refuse to discuss the border issue.

The Senegalese foreign minister stressed that so far his country has declined to refer the dispute to the UN Security Council, out of its faith and absolute confidence in the OAU and the good offices committee, and that it does not intend to do so, at least for the time being. [passage omitted]

Regarding the issue of property, he said his country is ready to discuss this problem with the six-member committee and to establish a special body to assess the damage done to property during the recent incidents between the two countries. He said the idea of forming three subcommittees to examine the problems of the borders, property, and individuals is a good one that could establish a framework for a peaceful, comprehensive, and final settlement of the conflict. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Energy Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC0111232189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Hisham al-Khatib, Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources, arrived in Cairo tonight for a 3-day visit during which he will sign an agreement on connecting electricity lines between Egypt and Jordan.

In a statement following his arrival, al-Khatib described the agreement as a first step toward developing and cementing the economic relations among the Arab Cooperation Council's member states.

USSR's Gennadiy Tarasov Leaves 1 Nov

NC0111153989 Cairo MENA in English 1401 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, Nov 1 (MENA)—Gennadiy Tarasov, Soviet assistant foreign minister and personal envoy of the Soviet foreign minister to the Middle East, left here today after a three-day visit to Egypt.

In a pre-departure statement, the Soviet official said that his talks with the deputy premier and foreign minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and first foreign undersecretary and director of the president's office for political affairs Dr Usamah al-Baz were very useful and came within the framework of continuous consultations and cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

He added that Egypt plays an important role in the peace process in the Middle East and President Husni Mubarak has a positive role in pushing forward peace efforts.

He said that the Soviet Union always works to find out a solution to the Middle East problem and holds contacts with all parties to achieve peace in the area.

Further Reportage on Maritime Transport Conference

Kuwaiti Minister Cited

NC0111124689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Engineer 'Isa Muhammad al-Mazidi, Kuwaiti minister of state for services affairs, has said that during his meeting with President Mubarak today he conveyed greetings to him from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah; Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd; and the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He added that President Mubarak had asked him to convey his best regards to the Kuwaiti amir.

The Kuwaiti minister said he had briefed President Mubarak on his impressions of the first international conference on maritime transport problems in developing countries, which is currently being held in Alexandria, as well as the studies submitted by the various

parties tasked with finding solutions to these problems. The Kuwaiti minister praised the Egyptian maritime transport infrastructure, noting that he had acquainted himself with it during his visits to several maritime sites, including the port of Alexandria. He said the considerable progress made in this field will increase the potential for more work engagements in the future and allow a number of Arab and Kuwaiti trainees to receive training courses in Egypt.

Conference Concludes

NC0111221989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Alexandria, 1 Nov (MENA)—The first conference on maritime transport in developing countries has demanded the developing countries depend on their technical and administrative capacities and on their ability to face the competition in the international arena in the field of maritime transport. It also demanded they form a clear vision and rational strategy to deal with present conditions and future developments.

At the conclusion of its sessions today, the conference underlined the importance of regional cooperation among the developing states to acquire their share of foreign trade in order to protect their interests. It recommended cooperation among these states to construct principal ports to serve the regional groupings and the states with no outlets to the sea. The conference noted that the maritime transport market is witnessing fundamental changes which tend toward forming regional and economic groupings, whereas Africa and the Middle East area do not have this tendency, thus being placed in bad competitive position.

The conference demanded that the developing states keep pace with the universal inclination toward diversified transportation and prepare early for such a development by establishing the infrastructure and setting up road and river transportation networks, railways, and internal container stations. They should also work out integrated systems for diversified transport, cooperate among themselves to provide the scientific and technical cadres, and mobilize all resources to solve problems and exchange expertise.

The conference demanded that the developing states provide statements on the maritime transport movement and foreign trade as this is considered one of the main factors necessary for decisionmaking and long-term planning. It stressed the importance of cooperation among the developing states in the field of exchanging information and stressed the need to keep pace with the information revolution by establishing information systems for the maritime companies and ports and by setting up information banks for maritime transport on the regional level.

The conference urged the developing states to show interest in the phenomenon of maritime deception and to adopt measures to overcome this. It also called on these states to invite more international cooperation in order to adopt the necessary measures to preclude this phenomenon.

The conference recommended the developing countries adopt a unified policy to face the tremendous developments in container specifications, including their larger size, in equipment for ports, in transportation, and for the consequent huge investments which would constitute a burden for developing countries. It recommended these states adopt protective maintenance measures in order to preserve modern equipment and ensure that it is used well.

The conference recommended continuous training and education on the various levels in the field of maritime transport in developing countries in order to follow up scientific and technological progress. This is also in order to keep up with educational and training programs in the field of maritime transport in the advanced states and to absorb everything new in applying scientific management methods and to provide trained technicians and qualified administrative cadres.

The conference said that it is necessary to keep pace with the unified international maritime legislations pertaining to the tremendous progress in the field of maritime transport in order to regulate legal and trade relations in a just and balanced manner. The conference pointed out that the Hamburg rules [not further specified] have been set to achieve these goals, and they therefore merit international support in general and support from the developing countries in particular.

The conference recommended that the maritime transport research and consultations center of the Arab Maritime Transport Academy in Egypt be entrusted with forming follow-up committees to implement the conference's recommendations in cooperation with the parties concerned in the developing countries. The conference also recommended that the center should submit the outcome of [word indistinct] for implementing the recommendations to the next conference of maritime transport in developing countries, due to be held in 1991.

The conference called for convening an international conference to study the problems of maritime transport in developing counries once every 2 years to follow up on implementing the recommendations of previous conferences and to face rapid developments in world maritime transport.

The conference began its meetings in Alexandria 2 days ago and discussed 24 specialized research projects on various problems facing maritime transport in developing countries and ways to resolve such problems. It also discussed keeping pace with the rapid progress of the maritime transport industry in the major industrial and maritime countries.

Delegations from Arab and European countries and representatives of the international organizations and committees concerned, as well as officials in charge of

the maritime transport sector and companies and heads of Egyptian ports, participated in the conference.

Libya

Envoy Sees 'No Tension' in Relations With Italy

PM3110142289 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 29-30 Oct 89 p 9

[ANSA interview with Libyan Ambassador 'Abd al-Rahman Shalqam in Rome on 28 October]

[Text] Rome—In an interview with ANSA, Libyan Ambassador to Rome 'Abd al-Rahman Shalqam tried to play down the events of the past few days.

[Interviewer] Ambassador, why do you believe the tension of the past few days has occurred between Libya and Italy?

[Shalqam] I see no tension. What has happened? Some 200 Libyans came to visit the cemeteries where Libyan casualties and deportees are buried, and the visit went well. Then there was the ship carrying a further 800 Libyan citizens. The Italian Government did not give them permission to enter national territory and they left again. That is all there is to it. Then there was that Italian killed in Libya. Our authorities are conducting all possible inquiries. My impression, however, is that somebody is trying to escalate matters for no reason. I cannot understand the reason for this entire campaign against Libya.

[Interviewer] Do you not believe that it started with the "day of revenge" proclaimed by the Libyans and that the killing of the Italian engineer was connected to the anti-Italian demonstrations?

[Shalqam] October 26 was the "day of mourning," not of revenge. There is a great difference between the two. As for the murder of the Italian engineer is concerned, it is a criminal act of the kind that can occur anywhere. I see absolutely no political motive. Nevertheless Italy is entitled to request a thorough and rapid legal investigation into the engineer's murder. We are in constant contact with the Italian Foreign Ministry with a view to rapidly ascertaining the truth. It is our duty.

[Interviewer] Do you not consider it strange that Al-Qadhdhafi said that he knew nothing about the murder?

[Shalqam] Al-Qadhdhafi is the leader and is not kept informed of common murders. I informed the Libyan Foreign Ministry that I had been summoned to the Italian Foreign Ministry.

[Interviewer] What do you think about the reprisal threats made against Italy by Al-Qadhdhafi for the failure to admit the 800 Libyan pilgrims who arrived in Naples?

[Shalqam] The colonel merely said that he did not know why Italy denied those Libyans entry visas and requested an explanation of that refusal. In any case many words in Al-Qadhdhafi's interview were mistranslated. For instance, when he said: "Italy must take into account..." the translator rendered it as: "Italy must give apologies..."

[Interviewer] Do you not believe that the present tension could have repercussions on the safety of Italian workers in Libya?

[Shalqam] I see no tensions. Of course there are problems, but I am optimistic; we will soon find solutions. This is our job as diplomats. As far as Italian workers in Libya are concerned, their safety is guaranteed.

Foreign Ministry Protests Threats to Citizens

AU0111105689 Rome ANSA in English 1024 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, November 1—Italy's ambassador in Tripoli, Giorgio Reitano was called in by the Libyan Foreign Ministry Tuesday [31 October] to receive a protest over the threats and insults directed "by some Italian fascist elements" against Libyan diplomats and citizens in Italy.

At the same time, the head of the Italian office of Interpol, Nicola Simone, continued his mission of investigation in the Libyan capital as the body of Roberto Ceccato, slain near Tripoli in still mysterious circumstances last Wednesday, was flown home.

According to the Rome office of the Libyan news agency, JANA, Reitano was called in by the Libyan "People's Office on Contacts With Abroad and International Cooperation," the Libyan Government's foreign ministry, to be informed of Libyan "regret and [word indistinct]" over the reported threats and attacks.

According to JANA, Reitano was asked to communicate the Libyan viewpoint to the Italian Government, being told that these are acts that "harm relations between the two countries, and which may have consequences."

Speaking with reporters Tuesday, the Libyan Jamahiriyah's ambassador in Rome, Shalqam 'Abd al-Rahman, said that the embassy's telephone operators had received death and bomb threats against embassy staff.

"The threats are worrying me a lot," the diplomat said, also asking the Italian parties to isolate the fascists responsible for them.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Lebanese Delegation

LD3110140889 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Rabat, Oct 31 (MAP)—King Hassan II received here Monday afternoon the Lebanese parliamentary delegation led by speaker of the Lebanese parliament Husayn al-Husayni.

At the end of the audience, the sovereign answered a number of questions posed by the newsmen accompanying the Lebanese delegation.

To a question on the chances of success of the document on national reconciliation adopted by the Lebanese MPs [members of Parliament] in Taef, al-Ta'if, King Hassan II said the Arab tripartite committee (Algeria, Morocco, Saudi Arabia) had indeed participated in the elaboration of the document but that all the credit is due to Lebanese MPs from various trends who have "overcome all difficulties". The tripartite committee did what it believed was its duty to do for the good of the Arab people of Lebanon, the sovereign said adding however that it was King Fahd of Saudi Arabia who [word indistinct] greatest effort. Now, the effective guarantee for the success of the document is symbolized only by the will of Lebanese MPs, the Lebanese popular base must also fulfill its duty by backing the efforts of the MPs who are on [words indistinct] dozens of persons while the Lebanese people is formed of millions of persons, King Hassan II said.

"If MPs are not assured of the backing, trust, and solidarity of the people they represent, the document will have no chance of success. On the contrary, if the Lebanese are unanimous and if the base perfectly agrees with the summit, I am convinced that the crisis will be defused. I do not mean that it will be completely settled but it will start to resolve," the sovereign said.

Asked whether the committee's six-month mandate can be extended to [words indistinct] King Hassan II said if the members of the committee and their Arab peers deem it necessary to extend the mandate to conduct further action or finalize a task, the necessary time will be given to everybody and particularly to Lebanese brothers who can be sure to be backed by the committee.

King Hassan II finally asked the Lebanese newsmen to reaffirm the full solidarity of the Moroccan people and their sovereign with the Lebanese people praying the Almighty to help Lebanon overcome its crisis.

Delegation Departs 30 Oct

LD3110095789 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The Lebanese parliamentary delegation left Morocco last night. The head of the delegation and speaker of the Lebanese parliament, Mr Husayn al-Husayni, said that His Majesty King Hassan II's deep understanding of Lebanon's social environment and its civilized role led him to do his utmost to defend this homeland which offered to the Arab causes its most valuable assets.

He added that the Lebanese parliamentary delegation had the honor to meet his majesty, present thanks and gratitude, and discuss with him aspects of the Lebanese crisis and the steps due to be taken at various levels to speed up the settlement of this crisis.

Sudan

Forces Working To Regain Kurmuk Positions

EA0111201589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Major General Abd al-Fattah Abd al-Aziz Hawwari, commander of the 14th Infantry Brigade in Ad Damazin [north of Kurmuk], has affirmed in a statement to SUNA that the situation is reassuring in southern Blue Nile and that the Armed Forces are working hard to regain their positions in Kurmuk town after the tactical withdrawal.

He explained that the outlaws tried to enter the town three times and had been unable to do so until recently through foreign assistance. Maj Gen Hawwari reassured the citizens that his forces will soon return to Kurmuk, calling for the exercise of caution and vigilance against small groups of agents who are trying to spread rumors and obtain information. He directed citizens in the area to report immediately every dubious individual or movement.

At the end of his statement, he confirmed that all individuals of the Armed Forces in the area are well and that they are prepared to sacrifice their souls for preserving the soil of this country.

Maj Gen Hawwari had a meeting with Mr al-Amin Ibrahim al-Hasan, the executive officer for the Rusayris area [northeast of Ad Damazin] and members of the People's Committee for Supervision and Services in Ad Damazin. At the meeting, (?he briefed them on) the dimensions of the situation in Kurmuk and specified the roles required. Committees were formed at the town level to gather mass support and assistance for the People's Armed Forces.

Al-Bashir Comments

NC0111130689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 1 Nov (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] in Sudan, has stressed that all preparations have been made to regain the city of Kurmuk and all positions occupied by the John Garang movement throughout the country, adding that this year will witness the end of the rebels.

Speaking during a tour of the Armed Forces' frontline positions east of the Blue Nile and in Ad Damazin along the borders with Ethiopia, Lt Gen al-Bashir said: The movement's antipeace stand will not prevent us from forging ahead with preaching peace to the ranks of the rebels, who carry arms because they are unaware of the course of events in Sudan.

The RCC chairman noted that the Sudanese soldiers who had taken part in the Kurmuk battle told him when

he visited them that the Ethiopian troops gave considerable support to the Garang troops and that a large number of Ethiopians and some foreigners were among the great number of rebels killed during the battle.

In another development, Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, RCC member and official spokesman, has accused the Garang movement of seeking secession of the south. He said the Armed Forces will remain vigilant to such schemes, regardless of the sacrifice, and will maintain the unity and territorial integrity of the country. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Kurmuk

EA0111192289 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1005 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum—Foreign Minister Ali Sahlul has stated that the peace option declared by the National Salvation Revolution is still open despite the treachery perpetrated by rebel John Garang in the Kurmuk area.

Sahlul said in an interview for Jordanian radio monitored here yesterday that Garang, by acting in this manner, had wanted to divert attention away from peace. The minister said that the attack on Kurmuk had been mounted by way of an intensive barrage from Ethiopian territory, which was the result of [words indistinct].

He said Sudan (?in no way) wants strained relations with Ethiopia, but at the same time, it cannot accept hostile operations against Sudanese territory.

SPLA on 'Foreign' Support Charge

EA0211085789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 1 Nov 89

[From "Brief Commentaries on the Current Situation"]

[Excerpts] The fall of Kurmuk and 'Umar al-Bashir's lies. The important strategic town of Kurmuk fell into the hands of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] on the eve of 28 October 1989. [passage omitted] Kurmuk fell following a sweeping attack by the New Funj forces led by the chief of staff, Commander William Nyuan Bany. Al-Bashir said his forces made a tactical withdrawal and that foreign intervention and support were involved.

We are not taken aback by such terminology, because it is old terminology which it has been necessary to apply to every military victory won by the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM]/SPLA and even to victories won in the political and military fields. In all of these there is always foreign intervention and support. Explaining the Surkum fighting, 'Umar Hasan stated that his forces had inflicted heavy losses of life and materiel on the SPLA, while today he says that his forces made a tactical withdrawal to effect a speedy return. How does 'Umar Hasan explain a tactical withdrawal of forces away from forces on which heavy losses have been inflicted?

The Khartoum rulers always justify their mistakes by pointing the finger of accusation at quarters over the borders. No town occupied by the SPLA is ever occupied without foreign help. This, of course, is an important reason for the tactical withdrawal and for making promises to return and recapture the area soon. The same was practiced by Al-Numayri and Siwar al-Dhahab and later Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and it is something with which the Sudanese people are familiar, so we say to 'Umar Hasan, who claims to have come to rescue Sudan, that lies and deception are contemptible.

The Sudanese people want to hear from him what new idea he had that made him decide to take over and why he halted the peace process. 'Umar Hasan's claim to the effect that the attack on Kurmuk emanated from Ethiopian territory is a scandalous lie which should not have been told by someone who calls himself God-fearing.

'Umar al-Bashir knows perfectly well that the SPLA is now in control of all of the eastern Blue Nile since last year. These positions are within Sudanese territory and they know the camps of the SPLA. These camps were the objectives of the attack mounted by Lieutenant Colonel Sayyid Jamal al-Din and Colonel Muhammad Ali al-Haji, for the Sudanese Army certainly has no objectives outside Sudanese territory. Surkum is between Damazin and Kurmuk. It is in that area that the forces of Lt Col Sayyid Jamal al-Din were routed and where our forces captured 10 vehicles and heavy field guns. What is the point of directing such artillery to and using it on a place as isolated as Kurmuk?

Our forces have ascertained that the morale of 'Umar al-Bashir's forces in Kurmuk deteriorated after the destruction of the reinforcements which the garrison was awaiting. This is a piece of military logic of which 'Umar al-Bashir ought to be aware.

'Umar al-Bashir also said that the attack on Kurmuk was mounted because the movement had been thrown into confusion by the peace steps he had taken. This is a disgraceful thing to say for a man who wants to apply the Shari'a in Sudan. What are these steps? Do they envisage a cease-fire, continuing the relief operations and halting propaganda attacks, or do they constitute attacking the SPLA's positions in southern Blue Nile and elsewhere? Where is the reply to the SPLM/SPLA's peace program of four points? Naturally, the program is in the wastepaper basket of 'Umar al-Bashir and the reply to it is the attack on the SPLA positions, for, as the saying goes, the ground has experience of stones.

We advise 'Umar Hasan to go back to his desk or wastepaper basket, where he might find the SPLM/SPLA's peace program. He should read it properly and repeatedly. Perhaps with luck it will help him to understand and then he might realize that the peace upon which all sections of the Sudanese people are agreed is

embraced by the four points of the program. But resorting to attacks and accusing foreign quarters is an old and worn-out method.

Al-Bashir 'Deplores' Ethiopian Role

AB0211091089 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 0730 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] In Sudan, it is feared that violence may escalate. According to an Egyptian opposition daily, Libya and Iraq have agreed to lend a helping hand to the ruling military junta in Khartoum, where Ethiopia is still being accused of having authorized Colonel John Garang's movement to launch military operations from its territory. Flavienne Issembe comments:

[Issembe] The present tension was sparked by the capture of Kurmuk by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, [SPLA] last Sunday [29 October]. Khartoum accused Addis Ababa of having participated in the fighting. Sudan's head of state, General al-Bashir, even deplored the involvement of Addis Ababa, especially in view of the fact that a delegation was due to leave Khartoum last weekend for the Ethiopian capital for peace negotiations with John Garang's army. Ethiopia, on the other hand, denies any involvement and calls for an end to the practice of accusing it whenever a battle against the SPLA turns to the disadvantage of the government.

Against the background of this tension, three countries come on the stage. One of them is Egypt, which is proposing to mediate between Khartoum and the SPLA on Egyptian territory. At the same time, it has urged Ethiopia and Kenya to stop their assistance to Col Garang's army. On the other hand, Libya and Iraq have agreed to deliver figher planes and ammunition to the Sudanese Armed Forces this week. This subject was certainly at the center of the meeting in Baghdad betwen the Iraqi head of state and the vice president of the Sudanese military junta.

Red Cross Official Comments on Yirol Bombing

AB0111214489 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 1 Nov 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Considerable mystery surrounds an incident in southern Sudan yesterday in which planes bombed the town of Yirol. Yirol is held by the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] but is being supplied with relief aid by the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, through its office in Nairobi. On the line to Nairobi, Josephine Haisley asked ICRC representative, Carlo Tonslo, what information he had about the bombing of Yirol.

[Begin recording] [Tonslo] Well, so far, we know that yesterday, indeed, the town of Yirol was bombed. They saw two planes coming and bombing the town. A few places inside the town were bombed and there were wounded people and a few dead people. So far let's say we are speaking about five dead and again six or seven wounded people but I don't have that precise information, I mean, it is not very reliable.

[Haisley] Do you know whether these injured and dead people were civilians?

[Tonslo] They were civilians, I think. But again, I don't have the final confirmation about this.

[Haisley] Do you know the identity of the planes that were involved in this bombing?

[Tonslo] I am sorry, not at all.

[Haisley] What has been happening to the injured and dead? Have they been evacuated at all?

[Tonslo] Well, you know they have a hospital with a Sudanese doctor working there. And so far, well they can take care of these people. And of course, if it is needed to transfer to our ICRC hospital in Lokichogio, then we can make the evacuation.

[Haisley] How badly injured are the victims?

[Tonslo] We don't know, not very badly injured. So far, we don't have any very bad case, so far I know but, of course, again I don't have the final confirmation.

[Haisley] Will you continue sending your daily flights to Yirol now that this bombing has taken place?

[Tonslo] Well, normally our flights have a schedule and with the agreement of both parties, and for the time being, we are respecting our flight schedule and continue to fly into Sudan for our work activity. [end recording]

UN Resumes Relief Flights

AB0211084489 Paris AFP in English 0812 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Nairobi, Nov 12 (AFP)—Relief flights to southern Sudan resumed Thursday after being suspended because of a bombing raid by two unidentified planes on the rebel-held southern town of Yirol.

Five civilians were killed and six were slightly wounded in Tuesday's attack on Yirol in Al Buhayrat Province, held by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

A spokesman for the UN-spearheaded operation said here Thursday that Operation Lifeline Sudan flights from the northern Kenya town of Lokichogio had been resumed following "discussions with both sides."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which makes daily flights to Yirol, had said earlier its flights would continue and five ICRC personnel in the town would stay.

Operation Lifeline Sudan, which began last April 1, is about to enter a second phase having delivered 104,000 tonnes of relief food up until October 31 to avert a threatened famine.

Some food will continue to be delivered but the second phase, for which donor support will shortly be sought, aims to concentrate on help for the war displaced to allow them to become more self-sufficient.

The UN hopes to get agricultural tools into south Sudan by the end of December and seeds and fertilisers by the end of March.

'Military Source' Cited on Failed Coup Attempt

JN0211084689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0736 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Doha, 2 Nov (WAKH)—Press reports in Doha today said Sudanese security organs over the past few days foiled a plot by high-ranking retired military officers to overthrow the current regime.

The Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH cited a military source in Khartoum as saying that seven senior officers of the previous Armed Forces Command had been arrested.

The source said the accused are being interrogated and investigations are under way. The source expressed the belief that the current command of the national salvation revolution will issue a statement on the details of the plot in the next few days.

Junta Accepts Recommendations on 'Federal System'

AB0111222189 Paris AFP in French 2124 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Nov (AFP)—The Sudanese junta today decided to accept the "general outline" of a recommendation by the conference of national dialogue to introduce a federal system in Sudan, an official statement has announced.

This decision, the communique pointed out, was adopted at a joint meeting of the Sudanese Council of Ministers and the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC]. The communique described the recommendations of the conference as"guidelines for the state policies."

Organized by the junta, the national dialogue conference, which began work on 9 September and continued for 1 and ½ months, brought together 104 "wise men" including 29 individuals from the southern part of the country. They discussed the organization of Sudan's political system. The Khartoum junta, which has been in power since 30 June, committed itself to respecting the recommendations of this conference, at which the southern rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) were not represented.

SPLA Spokesman Gives Advice to New Volunteers

EA3110214489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] today disclosed to radio SPLA that various groups of youth from northern Sudan have written to the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] chairman and commander in chief training and armament, and to be informed where they can join the SPLA to get the training and armament.

The spokesman said the commander in chief appreciates the stand of those youth, and he has directed them to find their way to join SPLA forces of New Funj in Southern Blue Nile, or the forces of New Kush in southern Kurdufan.

The youth of al-Jazirah, Blue Nile, and White Nile can join either the forces of New Funj or those of New Kush, according to their convenience.

The youth of western Sudan are to join the forces of New Kush. Those in Khartoum are to find their ways to southern Kurdufan or Southern Blue Nile. Sympathetic militay and police personnel are to help and facilitate the movement of those coming to join the SPLA.

In a related development, the spokesman disclosed that SPLA has established clandestine centers for contribution and donation to the movement in both Ad Damazin [Central Region] and Kaduqli [South Kurdufan], to support the forces of New Funj and forces of New Kush. Citizens in Al Damazin and Kaduqli are encouraged to find out these centers and to make their donations and contributions.

Spontaneous centers are also encouraged and their contributions of money, medicine, and other materials are welcome and appreciated.

The spokesman said the appeal of the SPLM/SPLA is across race, tribe, religion, or old parties. It is for a new united democratic Sudan of equality, opportunity and prosperity for all.

Join your movement, join the SPLA, or contribute to your movement, contribute to the SPLM/SPLA. Long live the new united democratic Sudan! Long live the SPLM/SPLA! Victory to the Sudanese people!

Oman

Iranian Envoy Delivers Message From Velayati

LD0111212989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] In a meeting today with Mr Yusuf ibn 'Alawi, Omanese minister of state for foreign affairs, our country's ambassador to Muscat submitted a written message from Mr Velayati, the foreign minister.

According to the Central News Unit, in this meeting mutual relations and regional issues as well as issues of interest to the two countries were discussed.

PDRY

Fisheries Talks With Soviet Union Begin 28 Oct

EA2810212889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] The 15th session of the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee on marine fisheries began today at the Ministry of Fish Resources. The Yemeni side was led by Brother Salim Muhammad Jibran, candidate member of the Political Bureau and minister of fish resources, while the Soviet side was led by Nikolay [second name not given] deputy minister of fish industry.

At the first meeting of the session, Brother Jibran delivered a short speech in which he referred to the importance of the session, which coincides with celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the PDRY and the USSR. The treaty represented a new phase in the development of Yemeni-Soviet relations in various areas of cooperation. He pointed out that the session was extremely important at the present stage of cooperation between the two countries, because important achievements had been scored through cooperation with the USSR.

Achievements realized since the 14th session will be discussed. Investment projects, including the implementation of the fisheries complex at Suqutrah Island, and other issues relating to the fisheries sector will also be reviewed.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Interviewed on Executions, Kuwait Ties

JN0111144089 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 30 Oct 89 pp 1, 9

[Report on an interview with Saudi King Fahd by ARAB TIMES Editor in Chief Ahmad al-Jarallah; date and place not given]

[Text] "Saudi Arabia is Kuwait, similarly Kuwait is Saudi Arabia. This bond cannot be undermined," King Fahd told me in an interview.

Soon after the return of HH the Amir of Kuwait from his long foreign tour, it dawned on me to see the possibility of meeting with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia from a journalistic viewpoint.

Undoubtedly, the Saudi capital has for some time now been the venue of many vital developments—a veritable "gold-mine" for journalists. As an added incentive, the personality of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has its special taste and indeed raises the plateau of lustre for any journalist. Given this backdrop, my initial thinking on lines of an interview, became a foregone conclusion.

The interview was essentially conducted in a simple manner—simplicity being one of the major characteristics of the Saudi style which does not believe in rituals and complications.

Meeting with King Fahd, one gets the distinct impression that the King is a personage with a wealth of information and is continually involved in an unlimited flow of events, all of which have a historical background. When one talks to King Fahd, the tremendous weight of responsibility that he carries soon becomes apparent.

knowing King Fahd for his candidness in informing people about issues relating to interpreting political events in Saudi Arabia, the region and its relations with the world at large; I told him that I had several questions reflecting on events in our region and to the many crises that develop from time to time and asked him to provide some explanations to these events.

The King said: "Yes, I hear those cries from time to time, but this is the result of the struggle between those who care for this region and those who don't. By this, I mean the Arab peninsula and the Gulf region—and I particularly mean here the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states."

Explaining his statement, the King said that these states have overcome the difficulties and evils of the Gulf war which resulted in a state of "consideration" or "awaiting." Occasionally, the state of "awaiting" emerges in the form of relative stagnation.

The GCC states have many opportunities with history, (political, economic or social)—particularly, we are now witnessing a return to progress and development after the state of sluggishness that befell many aspects of our life during the war.

What the region is witnessing, is the result of the cries resulting from the reflection of the state of struggle and confrontation between those who wish that the region achieves its historical values and those who do not wish to see these objectives materialise. The latter, exploit the situation and at an opportune moment, vent their spleen. Their directives are indeed very adverse and we have come to hear their cries intended to destruct and destroy—this in no way affects us, King Fahd said.

Asked to comment on the present important stage, after the end of the Gulf war, the King said: "The Gulf states enjoy unequivalent social relations. In my opinion, their interrelations and links are natural and not a result of cooked-up agreements. The relations between the people of the region have preceded the agreements and these agreements were designed only to regulate certain issues."

Talking on this issue, Fahd cited the example of the relations between Kuwait and Saudi Araia and queried if Saudi Arabia could forget the stance taken by Mubarak al-Sabah (late Amir of Kuwait) when Imam 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Faysal went to him for refuge after he did not find any place.

He went on: "We very vividly remember Mubarak al-Sabah asking his guests to shake hands and greet 'His brother 'Abd-al-Rahman al- Faysal.' This stance will not be forgotten by Saudi Arabia."

On issues closer to home, Fahd commented on the execution of the men convicted of undertaking sabotage activities at the Grand Mosque and the much talked about ramifications. He said that at the outset, he would like to assure all that the sharia (Islamic) judiciary system in Saudi Arabia is totally independent and the executive authority has no influence on its judgements.

This judiciary has its rulings emanating from Islam and the teachings of Allah. He added: "I would like to firmly affirm that when those accused were arrested, my orders were identical to those I used to issue when I was the Minister of Interior.

"God knows—we even supplied them with Kuwiti newspapers. They were given every right and due process of law. Unfortunately, their crime was too big. They harmed the House of God (the Grand Mosque) and the Muslim Pilgrimage. They murdered innocent people. These innocent pilgrims believed that they were in a pure and secure place and in the hospitality of Allah. The innocent were acquitted and the guilty received the judgement of Islam."

Replying to the question as to why the judicial process took so long, King Fahd said that the sharia (Islamic judiciary) is different from man-made laws and these types of crimes have to pass through three stages of courts. Judges usually insist on meeting with the accused face to face to hear their testimony.

The King said that all the accused confessed in the courts to their crimes. One accused, initially denied that he had commited any crime, but subsequently told the high court that he wanted to be punished in this life to avoid punishment in the after life. The accused also said that he regretted his behaviour which caused harm to his country where he was brought up.

Continuing, the King said, "It is well-known that the accused are Kuwaitis, although they claimed during interrogations that they are of Iranian, Saudi, Qatari and Kuwait origins. As they carried the nationality of Kuwait and as it is a civilised country, Kuwait's wise political leadership had to inquire about the issue."

Asked to give his viewpoint on his sensitive issue and the resulting tales, the King said that Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad arrived in the kingdom, carrying a message from HH the Amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad. He was received at the airport by the Saudi Second Deputy Premier and Defence Minister, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

"On this occasion, I was out of Jeddah. Still, a helicopter was placed at his disposal, should he desire to meet with me. But, he declined as he did not wish to disrupt my short leave which came after haj and handed over the message to Prince Sultan. Naturally, it is the right of Shaykh Jabir to enquire—particularly as the accused are Kuwaiti citizens."

On the vital issue if the executions of the accused affected the cordial relations between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the King said that he would like once again to reiterate that the noble stand of Kuwait in the past cannot be ever forgotten.

Replying to accusations that he had refused to permit mediation of some Islamic countries who had offered their services in relation to the group of Kuwaitis who were accused and punished, the King talking about the background said that when the declaration of the court decision took some time, several letters were received from Saudi Arabia and abroad. All these letters stressed that the incident did not concern the Saudi security alone. It concerned all Muslims as Mecca is the holy place for Muslim haj.

"However, the sharia (Islamic) judiciary heard the confessions of the accused who said that they were pleased when they learned that the explosion succeeded. They said that after the success of their operations, they went and celebrated the killings and injuries to several pilgrims. But I disclose that there were some limited contacts.

"However, it is difficult to take matters complacently in issues as vital as these, as it may encourage others to repeat these acts. We do not want the security of the Grand Mosque to be harmed and we do not want anyone to plan to shake off the security of the country. It is the security of Mecca and the security of the pilgrims, the guests of Allah. The accused were given an absolutely fair trial and the guilty punished and the innocent set free.

Regardless of who the perpetrators are, King Fahd said: "The crime is monstrous. We deal with the crime according to its size irrespective of who had done it. Those must be duly punished. Thus the crime in our opinion is in its size and effect and not who done it. We stick in this matter to Islamic sharia and rules."

He added that there are people who continually strive to blow up imaginary issues—which is indeed part of the

cries I have previously spoken out. We hear these at the borders of the Arab peninsula and the Gulf.

He commented that if a Saudi citizen had done harm to the security of Kuwait, we would be the first to support any action taken by Kuwaiti laws.

"This is natural and does not need reaffirming. The point that needs to be reasserted is that Saudi-Kuwaiti relations cannot be affected by the storms of those who think that blowing up issues may affect the strong and historical relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. We all are aware that between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, there are open borders of passions and affection."

Asked to elucidate on the Gulf co-operation as as being fruitful and that the relations between the peoples of the region will be further strengthened, King Fahd said that he would like to record that this Gulf Cooperaton Council, which has become a model for other groups is a very important historical fact and we are all indebted to the Amir for his initiative in establishing it.

Continuing, he said that during the Arab summit in Amman 10 years ago, "we were the leaders of the six states sitting together at the hotel. Then Shaykh al-Ahmad spoke, saying that he had an idea and if it is accepted, let us improve upon it. Thus did he propose the establishment of a group for six states. The concept won the acclamation of all and later this GCC came into existence. That idea has reflected the wisdom and true thinking of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad. He is a true leader indeed," Shaykh Fahd commented.

He added that the achievements of the GCC states are very important. The council has overcome many delicate issues that needed flexibility. Undoubtedly, there were some external forces wishing to see the GCC unsuccessful. "Their ploys were quite ingenious, but we successfully overcame them and speeded up the dynamism of the Gulf cooperation. When the Gulf war intensified, our people felt that the GCC was for them and for defending their countries' independence and stability.

"During those difficult days, the GCC was a pride, greatly felt by the people of the region. In spite of all those positive achievements, the GCC people's interests must be strengthened. I always stress that the feeling of joint interests among peoples is stronger than written agreements. Linking economic interests of the GCC is the true reflection of the better achievements. If the interests scattered in the whole GCC states become joint interests, its performance, organisation and returns would certainly be better and would create the real links to attract the feeling of the people towards their gathering.

"The establishment of joint industrial ventures in unified markets, would result in better performances. The opportunity of cooperation between the GCC states are not limited, particulrly when they enjoy huge resources. The increase in the prosperity wheel through this organisation, is the true security [sentence as published]. People after this, will devote their time in development and growth. They will have no time to waste by looking towards conspiracies."

Shifting his attention to the financial situation in the kingdom, the King said that the government has as yet not sought any loans from any country. but has made maximum use of the local monetary liquidity, in safe investments. The value of the Saudi industrial exports is in excess of SR 10 billion. The period of economic recession due to the fall in oil prices and underproduction have passed and the economy is now looking up as political tensions in the region have diminished, the private sector is increasing its investment activities at home and domestic trading level is improving vigorously. These are all positive indications.

The King added that now the national economic infrastructure has been completed and fortified, the private sector must utilise the business opportunities. If this materialises, it is quite possible to step up exports in the next five years to SR 40 billion. I say this, the King said, because Saudi Arabia's various national factorie have won the consumers' trust due to its high quality and moderate prices.

In concluding the interview, King Fahd said that the forthcoming GCC summit in Muscat is indeed special as it is being held at a time when the efforts towards interlinking the interests of people in the areas are receiving the whole hearted support of all leaders in the region.

Asked to clarify on the postponement of his visit to the US due to several rumours claiming tht it was due to ill-health and others stating that it had to do with the current tense US-Saudi relations, the King said that the visit was postponed due to the Lebanese issue which had turned from an Arab and Mideast issue into a world issue. I had postponed my visit to the US on two previous occasions to follow the Lebanese issue, the concern of which was not limited to the tripartite Arab committee.

Telephone Contact Between King, Syria's Al-Asad

LD0111234589 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] A telephone contact took place this evening betwen King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and his brother his excellency the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad. During this contact, views were exchanged on all that serves the causes of the Arab and Islamic nations and consolidates the efforts being exerted toward the security and stability of the region. The contact was also a good opportunity for the consolidation and affirmation of the fraternal ties between the two sister countries in their common interests.

United Arab Emirates

Bush Comments on Israel-RSA Cooperation Viewed

JN0111130089 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
30 Oct 89 p 1

[Editorial: "The Crux of the Problem"]

[Text] The Arabs need too much patience. In fact, perhaps they need to close their eyes and ears and to stop thinking in order to find some credibility in U.S. President George Bush's recent statement on nuclear cooperation between Israel and South Africa, in which he said: "If the U.S. television network's report on Israel's illegal transfer of technology to South Africa turns out to be true, then this will not contribute to promoting relations between us, but will complicate matters".

It would not be strange if another statement were made by the U.S. President or his spokesman tomorrow or the day after to the effect that nothing has transpired to confirm his doubts, or that the transfer of technology has actually occurred, but it was legal!

The lack of credibility does not lie in the U.S. President's intentions, but in his deliberate disregard for the crux of the problem, and in the creation of clamor over a minor aspect of this problem. The crux of the problem is that both Israel and South Africa possess nuclear arms. This would have been impossible for this to happen had not there been firm cooperation between the two fascist regimes that have the blessing and support of the United States. Israel has provided technology, and the fascist government has provided the appropriate place to conduct tests, whether on its desert territory or south of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. This is an established fact that has been known since 15 years or more, which has been confirmed by several parties to this issue. We do not believe that the U.S. Intelligence Agency, [as published] whose director was Bush before he entered the White House, did not know this. Therefore, saying that it is true, or if it will turn out to be true is meaningless, and it is only an attempt to throw dust in the eyes.

President Bush would have done better had he recognized the fact that he insists on ignoring—namely, that the danger is not posed by the two fascist regimes' exchange of nuclear technology, but basically by their possession of it. This poses a threat to the whole world's security, not only to the Arabs' security.

UN's Eliasson Meets With Government Officials

Received by President Saddam

JN0111144889 Baghdad Voice of the Masses 1300 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn received this morning Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general, and his delegation.

During the meeting, Eliasson conveyed a written message from UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to the president leader. He also explained his mission to the president.

His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn stated that Iraq's record concerning its sincere and serious desire to achieve peace was well-known from the beginning of hostilities. He added: Iraq has accepted all UN Security Council resolutions issued on the conflict, beginning with the resolution of 28 September 1980 and ending with the latest UN Security Council resolution on the conflict; namely, UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Iraq, he added, had accepted these resolutions without regard to military considerations bearing on the conflict during this period. Furthermore, Iraq has cooperated sincerely with the United Nations and honored its commitments to this world body and the international community. Iraqi actions have always fallen in line with international law. As for Iran, its record is completely different. So far, Iran's record contains no tangible evidence of a sincere and serious desire to achieve peace. Moreover, Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 only came about 1 year after that resolution was issued, and under circumstances that are well-known to the international community. Hence, Iran is now required to provide evidence, in the form of concrete actions and measures, of its desire to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace—the objective sought by both Iraq and the United Nations.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN0211071989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general, and the delegation accompanying him. They discussed issues related to Mr Eliasson's current mission in the region, which seeks the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 and to bring about a lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, Iraq's permanent UN representative, and the head of the department of international organizations and conferences at the Foreign Ministry.

Sudanese NSRCC Deputy Chairman Salih Visits

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN0111154589 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn this morning received Brigadier General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], and the delegation accompanying him.

Brig Gen al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih conveyed to the president the greetings of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the NSRCC, and his wishes of continued good health to the president and of further progress to the Iraqi people.

During the meeting, they discussed the fraternal Iraqi-Sudanese ties and the recent developments in Sudan.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, and the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Confers With Ramadan

JN0111185389 Baghdad INA in English 1745 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 1, INA—Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council, today received here Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, Mr Ramadan said that Zionist and imperialist circles would continue their conspiring against the Arab countries to compensate their defeat in the glorious Saddam al-Qadisiyah and Iraq's triumph. He added that this conspiring would be backfired against the ascending Arab spirit of struggle in defence of national unity and sovereignty.

The Sudanese leader stressed that the triumph of Iraq and epics of construction are a boost to all Arabs, adding that Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn has become a symbol for heroism and construction in defence of sovereignty and development.

The meeting touched on Iraqi-Sudanese relations which would further prosper and expand in all fields for achieving the common national objectives.

Foreign Delegations Arrive for Baghdad Fair

JN0111161389 Baghdad INA in English 1505 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 1, INA—Mr Gerhard Tautenhahn, Democratic German Republic minister of general and agricultural machinery and vehicle construction,

arrived here this morning to attend opening ceremony of the 26th Baghdad International Fair.

Meanwhile Dr 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, North Yemen minister of economy, supply and trade, arrived here for the same purpose. In a statement to INA, the Yemeni minister has expressed happiness over participating in the inaugural ceremony of Baghdad International Fair which reflects Iraq's economic and trade development.

He added he would confer with a number of officials on developing means of economic and trade cooperation between both countries.

On the other hand, the Chadian minister of trade and industry arrived here today to attend opening ceremony of the 26th Baghdad International Fair.

For the same purpose, Mrs Mary Leezeth, Belgian deputy foreign trade minister, arrived here this morning.

Hammadi Addresses Participants

JN0111163089 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 1, INA—The 26th Baghdad International Fair (BIF) today opened with the participation of more than 2,500 foreign companies from 62 countries as well as 175 Iraqi public, private or mixed sector firms.

President Saddam Husayn deputized Revolution Command Council Member and Deputy Premier Sa'dun Hammadi to the inaugural ceremony.

Opening the BIF, Mr Hammadi said Iraq had to fulfil two tasks: post-war reconstruction and following up the approach of development of Iraq's economy.

He stressed that Iraq's economic situation was satisfactory, and that Iraq would fulfil all its obligations to all parties.

Mr Hammadi clarified that Iraq was passing a period following a long-term destructive war which forced it to wade [as received] in defence of the country, national independence and freedom to choose the appropriate political, social and economic system, and to block intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs as well as resisting hegemony policy and interference in the Arab Gulf by the Iranian regime.

The Iraqi deputy premier stressed that Iraq was still trying its best to turn the current ceasefire into permanent peace. He went on saying that Iraq had exerted significant efforts during the U.N. sponsored negotiations to realize comprehensive, permanent and just peace, but Iran had not responded to that to date.

The crux of our difference with it (Iran) is that we view peace to be based on implementation of all provisions of the Security Council Resolution 598 and not some of them, Mr Hammadi said.

He emphasized that the process of reaching permanent and overall peace was a fundamental step for economic boost of Iraq, the Arab Gulf and Iran.

The 15-day session of the BIF is likely to be attended by some 40 senior officials from the participating countries, including minister or undersecretaries of trade, economy and industry.

Some 2,090 firms from 60 countries took part in the fair's last year's session.

More Iraqi products than ever will be on display at the fair during this year's session, including mainly the products of Ministry of Industry factories. Iraqi heavy industry machinery, saloon cars, and heavy vehicles as well as samples of exportment [as received] commodities are on display this year.

More facilities will be available for participating states. For instance, they are allowed to import to Iraq capital goods worth 100,000 Iraqi dinars (more than 300,000 US dollars).

The participating countries will also celebrate their national days and are allowed to give press interviews during the 15 days of the BIF, the participants are to visit the port city of al-Faw at the end of the session.

A special committee in charge of assessing the quality of BIF pavilions is to award gold, silver and bronze medals and certificates of merit to the best pavilions in terms of design, display and harmony of goods and volume of trade exchange.

During the past few days, foreign officials began arriving here to attend the fair. On Tuesday [31 October] Bahrain's Minister of Trade and Agriculture Mr Habib Ahmad Qasim arrived here to attend the BIF's 26th session.

The BIF occupies some 305,000 square metres with an area of more than 33,000 square metres of shed. It contains 28 show-rooms.

The first session of the BIF was held on February 8, 1964 with the participation of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait and Morocco.

During the eight years of the Gulf war, some 40 qualitative or specialized shows were held on the premises of the BIF, namely the international book fair, the military industry products fairs, children's book fairs and Iraqi industrial products fairs.

At the international level the BIF has taken part in international fairs held in Paris, Leipzig, Belgrade, Izmir, Warsaw and Cairo.

Baker Presents 'New Version' of Five Points

TA0111144489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Secretary of State James Baker has telephoned Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, presenting him with a new version of the five points. This is a news item which has just reached our desk. In a telephone conversation held at noon, Baker transmitted to Arens different amendments than those requested by Arens.

Further on Amended Baker Plan

TA0111181589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state has conveyed to Minister Arens a new version of his five points. Secretary Baker transmitted the new version by telephone during a stopover on his way to Australia. The draft document will be presented to Israel in several days.

Our correspondents Ze'ev Kohen and 'Oded Ben-'Ami report that in the new version, the article referring to consultations between Israel, Egypt, and the United States on the composition of the Palestinian delegation has been removed. It now says that Israel will come to the meeting only after it is satisfied with the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Another change is that at the meeting the Palestinians will discuss the electoral process and the negotiating process, rather than the actual negotiations.

'Progress' Seen in 'New Version' of Baker Plan

TA0111182489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Political circles in Jerusalem believe progress has been made in the new version of the five points proposed by the U.S. secretary of state, our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports. The circles say that Secretary of State Baker initially said he was not prepared to diverge from the original version, but has now proposed changes to Minister Arens which from Israel's viewpoint are positive. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 1 November in a David Essing report adds that "Foreign Minister Arens has already briefed Prime Minister Shamir on the long-awaited Baker modifications. Israeli sources say tonight they view the Baker changes as a sign of progress and a step in the right direction."]

The circles said that the most important amendment is that in the meeting the Palestinians would discuss the electoral process and the negotiating process. This version defines more clearly the agenda for the meeting as dealing only with electoral procedures. They also said that consultations are expected with the U.S. Administration on understandings or guarantees on issues not defined in the five points.

Olmert Says Modifications 'Make Things Easier'

TA0211073789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Telephone interview with Ehud Olmert, minister without portfolio, by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Minister Ehud Olmert is on the line. Good morning, sir.

[Olmert] A very good morning.

[Zohar] Although when one inspects Baker's amendments very closely and sees that he has denied most of Israel's requests, there are several amendments made in the spirit of these requests. The impression is that the Likud will go for them. Is that correct?

[Olmert] I cannot say anything on behalf of the Likud. I cannot voice an opinion; I do not know. I have not had time to discuss the developments with any of my colleagues. All I can speak of is my personal impression, which is that you cannot inspect the proposals, or the formulations, merely from the point of view of a technical balance of figures, saying: He rejected this or that number of suggestions; he rejected most of the suggestions; or, he rejected only a small part. I do not think these are the criteria by which the issue should be judged.

The question is of substance—whether the truly important issues are covered by those formulations which are more favorable for Israel. I think we can say that, as far as formulations are concerned, the situation at this moment is better than the previous situation. I do not mean that we can jump to the conclusion that everything now is fine and dandy, that there are no more problems, and that the talks and negotiations will be smooth sailing as of now. The changes do, however, make things easier.

[Dan] The question is whether they will pave the way for a Cairo encounter, or whether they will provide a way out of everythying for Israel.

[Olmert] No, no. First of all, Israel does not want out. Israel wants to be inside. Israel initiated this move.

[Dan] But Israel has failed to obtain a change on the issue of a veto right over the Palestinian delegation's composition. Israel still has no such veto. All it can do is get out of the entire thing more easily.

[Olmert] That's not true. Israel does have a veto right.

[Dan] The Baker document does not say so.

[Olmert] It does say so—implicitly, but unmistakably. The moment they say Israel will not negotiate with a delegation it does not want, they mean that Israel is given a right to veto the delegation's composition. It is to be presumed that those who composed this document meant to say: We wish you to approve this composition. If we do not approve the composition, naturally, someone will have to: A) hear out our reasons for

rejecting the composition; B) consider how to change the composition in a way that would be compatible with our needs, too.

[Dan] But after all, even if the PLO accepts the formulation and an agreement on the Baker document is attained, we will again be stuck with the same question of a Palestinian list, of deportees, of exiled Palestinians. Do you not agree that neither Egypt nor the PLO will concur with a list which excludes such people?

[Olmert] First of all, I do not care with what the PLO will or will not concur. I am not negotiating with the PLO, and my first thoughts upon waking and my last thoughts at night are not the PLO's wishes and statements.

[Dan] Egypt will not concur.

[Olmert] Egypt may not concur. Well, then there is no commitment. Israel has never undertaken to unconditionally grant Egypt's every dream and wish. With all due respect, we are conducting a negotiation. We are the ones negotiating for our fate. The question on the agenda is not Egypt, or an agreement with Egypt. There is a limit to the role which we believe Egypt should play in this context and to the price we are ready to pay for enabling Egypt play this role.

[Zohar] Minister Olmert, to get to the bottom line: Will the Likud endorse this document, as it is, with the oral addenda?

[Olmert] Mr Zohar, I have not been authorized to make statements on behalf of the Likud or my colleagues in the Cabinet. The fact that I can say on behalf of myself that this formulation is worthy of serious consideration is no trifle this morning.

[Zohar] It certainly is not. Minister Ehud Olmert, thank you very much.

[Olmert] Thank you.

Moda'i Calls for Central Committee Meeting

TA0211091889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i wishes to peruse the revised version of the Baker plan, but will probably vote against it in the Inner Cabinet.

Minister Moda'i said that he disagrees with the way negotiations with the U.S. Administration are conducted. Israel is driven from position to position and has already traversed a long distance away from its political initiative for elections in the territories.

Minister Moda'i urged the convening of the Likud Central Committee to discuss the issue before the Inner Cabinet meeting. He was interviewed on our "It Is All Talk" program.

Rabin Proposes Return of Palestinian Deportees

TA0111123389 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Nov 89 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Two Hebron Hills Village League leaders, Mustafa Dudin and Jamil al-'Amlah, have relayed to 'Arafat a proposal made by Rabin. The proposal would allow Muhammad Milhim and Akram Haniyah to return to the territories to participate in the Palestinian delegation. This was told to our correspondent by Palestinian sources.

According to the report, in a meeting with 'Arafat in Tunis last month, Dudin and Al-'Amlah briefed 'Arafat on Rabin's proposal. According to the proposal, Milhim and Akram would agree to cease issuing anti-Israeli propaganda and acting against Israel's security, and, in addition, sever all ties with the PLO.

Besides participating in the Palestinian delegation, the two also would be able to run in the elections in the territories. The Palestinian sources said that 'Arafat reacted positively to the proposal.

While in Tunis, Dudin and Al-'Amlah also met with Akram Haniyah. Defense establishment sources earlier had told our correspondent that they had no knowledge of a meeting between Dudin and Al-'Amlah and 'Arafat—if such a meeting had indeed taken place.

Jamil al-'Amlah has categorically denied the report that Rabin had dispatched him to 'Arafat. He stressed that he traveled to Tunis of his own will, without reporting the proposed trip to anyone and without relaying any message.

3 MK's To Participate in Conference With PLO

TA0211063989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Knesset Members 'Uzi Bar'am, Shulamit Aloni, and Amnon Rubinstein will participate in debates which are to take place in Milan in 2 weeks. PLO representatives and Palestinians from the territories are also slated to appear in the debates.

Our correspondent Yosi Bar reports that the Center for Peace in the Middle East, which had been established under the auspices of the European Parliament and the Italian Foreign Ministry, will convene a conference to deal with ways to promote peace in the region.

The debates also will be attended by Karen Brutens from the Soviet Foreign Ministry's international department, and Richard Murphy, former U.S. secretary of state. The other participants will include PLO representatives Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and Mahmud Darwish.

The territories will be represented by Faysal al-Husayni, Hanna Sinyurah, Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, Sari Nusaybah, Ilyas Frayj, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, and Radwan Abu-'Ayyash.

Our correspondent notes that the conference will be attended also by delegates from Sweden, France, and the Netherlands, as well as Jewish figures from European and U.S. communities.

Egyptians Release Oil Tanker's Crew Members

TA0111171889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The crew of the Israeli tanker which was held for polluting the waters in the Strait of Tiran was released a short while ago. The families of the crew had been released a little earlier.

This morning, Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav approached Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to take immediate action to obtain the release of the seamen.

Foreign Currency Reserves Decline During Month

TA0211103489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Nov 89 p 8

[Report by Avi Temkin]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Bank of Israel announced yesterday that Israel's foreign currency reserves fell by $80 million last month to total $4.3 billion. This drop was attributed to the large purchases of foreign currency by the private sector.

According to a spokesman for the bank, the NIS [new Israeli shekel] 1.13b. in civilian aid received from the U.S. had not reached Israel in time to be included in last month's statistics and will only be incorporated into November's figures.

In a related development, the Treasury reported yesterday that in October, government expenditures exceeded revenues by NIS 18m. In the same month, it raised NIS 5m. on the capital markets, so that in net terms, it poured of NIS 13m. into the economy. [sentence as published]

The Treasury said no wage payments were made to civil servants in October, as salaries were advanced to the end of September, because of the High Holy days.

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, the Treasury said, the government's domestic deficit had accumulated to NIS 2.4b., but it managed to raise a total of NIS 3.6m. in net loans on the capital market.

Ministry Denies IDF Establishing Settler Units

TA0111162589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Report by military correspondent 'Amos Har'el]

[Text] A report published in the media this morning says that the defense minister and the commander of the Central Command have approved a plan to recruit the first platoon of reservists who live in the territories to conduct routine security activity in Judaea and Samaria.

Following the report and in reply to questions, the Defense Ministry spokesman said today that no new unit comprising Jewish residents of the territories has been established. These civilians carry out their reserve duty within the framework of the regional defense deployment that has prevailed in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] for years. The units are called up in accordance with IDF requirements and perform their duty both in the soldiers' places of residence and in other places in Israel. The policy governing reserve duty has not been changed. The IDF does not publicize the places where its units are deployed.

Settler Service in Territories for 'Trial Period'

TA0211063689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Army elements have said that the decision made by the defense establishment to reemploy settlers in the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] operational activities in the territories will be for a trial period. Final decisions will be made only after the first company concludes its service period. The elements added that, if the decision is implemented, the settlers will come to understand and sympathize with the army's activities, share the responsibility, and participate in securing traffic axes and settlements.

Figures on Palestinian Casualties Reported

TA0111125389 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 1 Nov 89 p 6

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 30 October, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 530 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. This figure includes only those killed by IDF gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's calculations, the number of fatalities is 654.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 792 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

—575 fatalities from IDF and settlers' gunfire;
—82 fatalities from asphyxiation;
—54 fatalities from beatings and electrocution;
—81 fatalities from other causes.

Details of Bayt Sahur Tax Collection Released

TA0111123989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpts] With the conclusion of the tax-collecting operation in Bayt Sahur, Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration, said that the tax revolt staged by that town's residents had been quelled and that all the goals of the operation had been achieved. [passage omitted]

At the end of the operation, official military sources released the following data: The operation was launched on 20 September; 320 town residents have not paid their dues to the customs and tax authorities; the authorities dealt with a total of 898 tax debtors; property estimated at 3 million shekels had been impounded; 33 vehicles had been confiscated; and bank accounts and cash had been seized. [passage omitted]

Civil Administration sources have said that owners of the confiscated property, which is now held at the customs warehouse in Ben-Gurion Airport, can reclaim their property in the next few days, after paying their debts to the tax authorities. If they fail to do so, an authorized body will publish a tender for the sale of the property.

The Civil Administration sources contended that in the course of tax collection in Bayt Sahur, additional tax debtors were identified. They added that a rise in the number of taxpayers in other West Bank locations was noted during the Bayt Sahur operation.

Galilee Police Uncover Intifadah-Style Squads

TA0111130289 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by western Galilee correspondent Yosi Leibowitz]

[Text] Police in Galilee District have uncovered three intifadah-style squads involved in hostile activities after 2 weeks of intensive police intelligence activity and interrogations following increased incidents of stonings, torching of vehicles, hoisting of PLO flags, and the painting of hostile slogans.

One of the bands, from the village of Majd al-Kurum, specialized in the stoning of passing vehicles on the 'Akko-Zefat road. Two youths from Moshav Manot were injured in an incident last Saturday while touring the Gilon River area.

A second squad, from the village of al-Makr, was responsible for setting up a roadblock on the road leading to the village, hoisting PLO flags, writing anti-Israeli slogans, and torching vehicles belonging to villagers suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

The members of the third squad, from the village of Bi'na, were several youngsters who stoned vehicles and smashed the windows of buses traveling from Nazareth to Dayr al-Asad. They waited until the last Arab passengers got off and then stoned the buses and smashed two windows.

In another incident, one of the youths was detained because his father sewed PLO flags for him and was then ordered to hoist them above public buildings in the village. All 11 suspects had their remands extended by the 'Akko Magistrate's Court by between 5 and 8 days.

Fatah Leaflet Seen Showing 'Radicalization'

TA0111200389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] A new Fatah leaflet distributed in Ramallah recently states that the current political contacts are nothing but a temporary political and tactical cover for revolutionary activity. The leaflet says that the confrontation now is not aimed at attaining a settlement or political settlements, but is a phase of the armed struggle in every sense of the word.

Our correspondent Hanan 'Azran says that according to the assessment of knowledgeable sources, the leaflet expresses a clear radicalization in the position of 'Arafat's supporters in the territories. This is part of their attempt to fight the influence of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Visiting Swedish Delegates Engulfed by Tear Gas

TA0211060489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] A stone was thrown last night from a moving truck with Hebron license plates at a military vehicle on the Beersheba-'Omer road. A soldier was lightly injured. She was taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

In the Gaza Strip, the army says it is investigating surrounding the wounding of a 15-year-old Arab by army gunfire. The incident took place in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. The youth was struck in the head and is in serious condition at Tel Hashomer Hospital.

In Shabura, two masked youths were lightly wounded when soldiers fired after the two refused to respond to orders to stop.

In Khan Yunus, two masked Palestinians stabbed a resident of the area. He was taken to a local hospital.

Eight Swedish parliamentarians visiting the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus yesterday were engulfed by tear gas fired by Israeli soldiers, but a member of the delegation said no one was seriously hurt. The army says soldiers fired the tear gas after an army lookout post at the edge of the camp was hit by stones thrown by

Palestinians. But official sources in the army say they had no information beforehand about the Swedish visit.

Stockholm Demands Explanation

TA0211084489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Moshe Yegar, the Israeli ambassador to Stockholm, has been summoned to the Swedish Foreign Ministry to provide an explanation for an incident that occurred in the Balatah refugee camp yesterday, during a visit by eight parliamentary members. The Swedish parliamentarians, who are members of the Association for Friendship with Palestinians, said that plastic bullets and tear gas canisters were fired at them in the course of their visit to a Balatah school. None of the group members were injured.

Nevertheless, the affair has created a storm in Sweden, where the foreign minister and foreign ministry director have sharply condemned the incident.

Official Army sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had not been told of the parliamentary members' arrival in Balatah and that the visit had been made without coordination with the Army.

As for the incident, it was stated that stones and a gas grenade were hurled at a UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] office backyard and at an IDF observation point. The soldiers used tear gas in a street adjacent to the site toured by the parliamentary members.

Riot in Old City, Stoning Incidents Reported

TA0111184889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Bus No 23 was pelted with rocks in the Wadi al-Jawz area of East Jerusalem at 1830 this evening. The bus driver sustained slight facial injuries from glass shards and was evacuated to Hadassah-Mt Scopus Hospital. Our police affairs correspondent Yaron Toren reports that the rocks were hurled by two individuals who escaped. The police started searching the area and caught two suspects.

In the vicinity of Lion's Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem a riot erupted as youths, led by a group of masked people, threw rocks and vegetables at a Border Police unit. The policemen fired two gas grenades. Searches are now being conducted in the area.

A bus traveling on the 'Akko-Zefat highway was stoned at the entrance to the village of Majd al-Kurum. As a result of the attack the bus's front windshield was shattered, but fortunately the driver managed to control the vehicle and continue on his route. No one was hurt. Immediately upon receipt of the report, a large police and Border Police presence was rushed to the scene of the attack. They launched searches, but no one has yet been detained.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 1 November adds that "stones were thrown at a train traveling near Battir village between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. No one was hurt, one window was smashed."]

Commentator Assesses Al-Qadhdhafi Statements

JN2710164589 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 27 Oct 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi is quoted as telling the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR that there is no reason why the Palestinians should not sit for talks with the Israelis. This suggests that his perception of the Arab-Israeli dispute has undergone some positive shifting and that he thinks it will have to be resolved at the conference table. Added to other such signs evident over the past few months, it is an indication that Al-Qadhdhafi's thinking and behavior are inching toward realism, positiveness, and rationality. He also seems to be making evident efforts to burnish his image and repair his relations in the Arab and global scenes.

If Al-Qadhdhafi has apparently made some headway down the path of realism and positiveness, it must be said that he still has a long way to go along this same route. In his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR this week, Al-Qadhdhafi said his most recent meeting with President Mubarak marks a victory for the Arab will—never mind the fact that Israel maintains an embassy in Egypt. He was further quoted as saying that he had discovered that the rupture of relations between Arab states and Egypt only furthered Israel's interests.

It took Al-Qadhdhafi 12 long years to find out that Egypt's estrangement from the Arab world advances Israel's interests, as he put it. Regrettably, though, despite the passage of 12 years, he has reached the wrong discovery and the wrong conclusion. This is because the Libyan leader has not quite disabused himself of the notions of negative rejectionism and the Israeli fixation.

Surely when he is disabused of this complex and this negative mentality, two facts, among others, will dawn on him. The first is that the severance of Arab relations with Egypt has not promoted Israel's interests, as Israel's best interests are served by the establishment of peace and coexistence with all of the Arab states. By contrast, the Arab boycott of Egypt signified a rejection of the path of peace traveled by Egypt and marked a major stumbling block to peace. The second is that the Arab peoples, individually and collectively, stand to gain as much from peace, coexistence, and fruitful cooperation as does Israel.

King, Prime Minister Receive U.S. Commander

JN0111213889 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] His majesty the king received at the Royal Hashemite Court today the commander of the U.S. Central Forces, General Schwarzkopf. The audience was attended by Army Chief of the General Staff General Fathi Abu-Talib and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

The U.S. commander was also received by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir in the presence of General Talib and the U.S. ambassador. They discussed bilateral relations and means of advancing them.

General Abu-Talib also held a separate meeting with the U.S. commander and his delegation. The talks dealt with the situation in the region and matters of mutual concern. The meeting was attended by General Talib's aides as well as the U.S. ambassador and military attache.

Intellectuals Appeal to King on Apostasy Case

JN0111164189 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Amman, 1 Nov (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn received today a representive group of Jordanian intellectuals and thinkers, which included a number of writers, lawyers, university professors, journalists, and doctors, who presented his majesty with a petition on the complaint made against the candidate Tujan al-Faysal.

His Majesty King Husayn heard from these representatives an explanation of this complaint and its negative effects on Jordanian society and Jordan's democratic march. They pointed out that what has happened is a form of psychological terrorism which has reflected on Jordan's bright image and the democratic atmosphere, which his majesty and his government have been concerned about providing. They affirmed that the complaint, particularly in the way it has been implemented, constitutes an abuse of Islam and its spirit of forgiveness and the doctrine of dialogue and good argumentation which our religion advocates.

The speakers also affirmed that the religious court is not qualified to accept and investigate the case. What has happened could set a dangerous precedent for digressing from the Constitution and the applicable and effective laws. They said that this has harmed Jordan's bright and civilized image in light of the freedom and democracy that our beloved homeland enjoys. They affirmed that out of their sense of patriotism and adherence to the principles Jordan represents and is known for, they come to his majesty, the father, the leader, the one concerned about the Constitution, adherence to its laws in spirit and word under all circumstances and situations, to place this issue in his hands.

The Jordanian thinkers and intellectuals said they sought to meet his majesty out of their faith and conviction that Husayn, the descendant of the great Hashemites, has always manifested in his words, thoughts, and actions the spirit of the forgiving Islamic religion. He has always taken care to preserve the purity of our religion's image and protect it from any abuse directed at it for aims and goals whose means and ways of achieving them are no longer concealed to anyone.

His Majesty King Husayn affirmed that the democratic atmosphere that we have been eager to provide must produce some negative results which must be tackled, and many positive results which must be entrenched and maintained.

His majesty said that we, in this country, rally around the objective of maintaining the country's steadfastness before all the challenges and dangers. He said we all need profound awareness of all that is being concocted against us as a result of our stands, policies, and Arab constants.

His majesty explained that the most important thing that we must stress now and in the future is safeguarding our national fabric, entrenching the democratic experience, and safeguarding freedoms within the framework of the security of the homeland and the citizen.

The representative group of Jordanian intellectuals and thinkers, which represents various sectors of Jordanian society, included: Lawyer 'Umar al-Nabulsi, Lawyer Asma Khadr, Dr Ahmad Madi, Dr Arwa al-'Amiri, Husni 'Ayish, Dr Fathiyah al-Sa'udi, writer Zalikhah Abu-Risha, Tariq Masarwah, Iyad Qattan, journalist Lima Nabil, journalist Wafa' 'Amr, and Miss Manal Hamzah.

The meeting was attended by chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and his majesty the king's political adviser.

Text of Al-Faysal's Article

JN3110134789 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Sep 89 p 11

[Article by Tujan al-Faysal, a prominent women's rights advocate contesting one of the three seats reserved for the Circassian and Chechen Muslim minorities in 8 November parliamentary elections, entitled: "They Insult Us... and We Elect Them!"]

[Text] Although we have seen the Rayya wa Sukaynah drama scores of times, we still laugh every time Suhayr al-Babili utters her famous phrase: Are we to remain silent while they hang us? If we ask ourselves why we laugh at this sentence in particular, we find that the secret lies in its twisted logic, in the blatant contradiction between the two parts of this sentence, and in the ridiculing of the mind by even mentioning it. At the same time, we laugh because this illogical idea actually exists and is practiced in many forms under the cover of all kinds of repression and tyranny.

I recall Suhayl al-Babili's sentence every day when I read the many articles in our newspapers describing a woman as being deficient and lacking in religion. I recall the sentence when I read that woman is rash and guided by

her emotions, that she is a minor all her life and needs a male guardian to run her affairs and keep her on the straight path, that she is so retarded as to be only capable of doing servants' work (correct me if the servant's duties are not confined to cleaning the house, cooking, and serving the other members of the family). In return for these services, a woman's remunerations will only be that she is fed, given shelter, and dressed. It is permissible to beat her if she disobeys her master's instructions. This group of writers unanimously agrees that beating a woman does not hurt her dignity. This is impossible unless the woman is born without any dignity. This is something which does not surprise us from the writers of these articles because they believe that woman was actually born deficient, although God has created the human being in the best of images. Woman's deficiency lies in the fact that she becomes pregnant, gives birth, and menstruates. This clearly means that motherhood is the cause of her deficiency!

In the midst of their vacillations between their claims to knowledge and logic and their adherence to metaphysical concepts and axioms which no logic or reason can accept, these writers have forgotten to tell us whether we should deduce from all this that the barren woman is more complete than the one that is fertile, and whether women who do not menstruate are more complete than the other women.

It goes without saying that holding an argument with these people is futile because their twisted logic will only lead us to byzantine arguments. However, we must draw attention to the duality of the expressions they use and the extent of scorn, which is coupled with slander to which they resort, believing that this is some kind of smartness and cleverness on their part. Some explicitly ridicule the woman who is imprisoned in the house and who is out of touch with the outside world because she did not excel in science, politics, and the arts over the past centuries in the same manner that the male has excelled—he who has had the chance to be educated, to work, to wage war, and to acquire experience. They try to avoid a comparison with those women who have had the same opportunities as men. By doing this, they treat their women unjustly, and then they ridicule the results of this injustice. This is the group that is not ashamed to tear out one of the eyes of their fellow human beings, and then call him: You, the one-eyed.

Others who think that they are cleverer and shrewder try to be polite by deliberately replacing the words "deficient, lacking in religion, stupid, lacking creativity, subservient, incapable, and possessing a physical makeup prepared for menial services" with euphemisms like "woman's sacred role in taking care of the home and raising future generations," "the dominance of the emotions of mercy, love, and motherhood," "delicacy and femininity," and "respect, chastity, and decency."

Because of their fear that these attractive words might not avail, and that a woman might not be deceived by these bright covers, and because of their fear that she might demand her freedom, dignity, and all the rights of a fully competent human being, the same article contains other phrases aimed at intimidating her by the use of slander such as "the wish to abandon traditions," "indifference," "wearing transparent or see-through clothes," "the turning of woman into a commodity," "for fear of wolves," "the desire to be left alone with man," and "when a man and a woman meet, the devil is the third party to be present," and other phrases, which any sane person would agree reflect a sick mentality and sinister intentions on the part of their writer. Such phrases do not reflect the living reality experienced by thousands of women who have gone to work, studied, succeeded, and were also prominent.

The best test to reveal the degree of truth in the alleged respect of those men for the woman who is satisfied with the conditions they have consecrated over the centuries is to ask them: If the woman's position represents the highest degree of respect, dignity, and honor, then what do you say to changing positions? Here we will see and hear all types of condemnation, ridicule, and anger which are inconsistent with the tone of the "gentleman" they assume.

This is a brief summary of what is being written on the pages of our papers. This is not only a woman's affair; it is a national, political, economic, and social issue which concerns us all—men and women—especially since what is taking place is part of the current election process, which we expect will define the image of the Jordanian community for many years to come. Above all, the issue is also a human one which cannot be disregarded anywhere and at any time. The issue can be summarized in the following points:

1. Anyone who believes in the superiority of one group of people over another because of any congenital differences outside the framework of what is scientifically accepted to be a physical or mental disability, such as differences in race or color, is surely a believer in racial discrimination and in all the inhuman practices it entails. Let no one think that this discrimination is confined to woman alone or to people with black, yellow, or red skin. Racial discrimination has more than a thousand colors. It was practiced even among the whites in Europe under the name of classes and to such extent that the sons of the upper classes in the Middle Ages claimed that the blood which ran in their veins was different from that of the impoverished classes. That is why they were called "blue-blooded."

2. The person who claims his opinion is the only plausible one and his judgment is the only one that should be applied—not because of his superiority in rational debate but out of the claim that everything he says enjoys divine support and all his opponents are atheists—heralds ideological dictatorships based on the concept of the priesthood; that is, the existence of mediators between God and man. These dictatorships give themselves the right to practice oppression and terrorism—to the extent of physical liquidation—against all their

opponents. This is what happened when the church ruled Europe during the so-called "dark ages," and this is what has been happening in Iran since Khomeyni came to power. This is also what is implied by the use of the term "apostate" and that immunity should be given to anybody who sheds the apostate's blood—the expression that we repeatedly hear.

3. Saying that the right to work, and consequently to financial earning, should be confined to a certain category of mankind, and that the other category has to depend on the generosity of the first for its living—in return, of course, for household and personal services that enable the first category to make the earnings—is a call for economic monopoly, entrenchment of capital influence, exploitation of cheap labor, and rejection of honorable competition in education and work. With the passage of time, this leads to the emergence of a group possessing everything and having the upper hand, and another possessing nothing or very little and living on the charity of the first. If such a situation is accepted and entrenched in any society as a principle for coexistence, then it cannot be confined to the relationship between men and women; it will definitely apply to the relationship between the have's and the have not's.

4. Saying that the woman's right to her husband's money in return for the services she provides—which in the scale of labor are considered menial jobs—is only to have food, clothes, and accommodation is nothing but acknowledgment of a principle much worse than merely the exploitation of cheap labor; it is the principle of slavery. Only slaves work in return for food and clothes, deprived of the right to use their time and effort in what may secure them a better future. What can we expect from people with such mentality when they deal with issues of labor, at a time when unemployment prevails and one is obliged to make many concessions in order to find his butter and bread?

5. Applying or accepting the principle of controlling others in an oppressive manner, whether because of physical or moral weakness; curbing freedom of movement for others in a way similar to house arrest; expulsion from the house; threatening one's security and independence in his house; and depriving one of his right to live the rest of his life with his children, mean explicit acceptance of the principle of colonialism. Those who do this, therefore, cannot be trusted to be in positions involving political, national, or militant decisions. Rejection of oppression, injustice, and confiscation of liberties is a firm principle. It cannot vary depending on who does injustice to whom and who oppresses whom. Those who do injustice to others cannot raise the banner of liberation. This is not in their favor because they know that all man's liberation movements are linked to each other, whether this man is an Arab, a Negro, a Vietnamese, or a woman of any color or race.

6. A woman is a member of the man's household. She is either his mother, daughter, sister, or wife. Whoever is not entrusted with these people's rights and dignity cannot be entrusted with the rest of his family, and whoever is not entrusted with the members of his household and his family, cannot be entrusted with the sons of his homeland.

The parliamentary seats and all seats of decisionmaking and authority are ones of trust befitting only those people who defend what is right from personal or sectarian gain, regardless of any personal or factional loss.

These are some of the logical inferences which impose themselves upon us when reviewing whatever is written in our newspapers. Although most of what is written is amusing, we view it as seriously as we view comical works of intentional or unintentional social, political, and economic significance. Can anything but a comical play present—within an election campaign carrying all the concerns and hopes of the homeland and calling for all hands to support its young edifice—an election program based on cursing the group that constitutes the majority of voters, promising them all menial positions, consecrating all kinds of sexual discrimination against them, and robbing them of all their civil rights, including the right of being rewarded by God upon the completion of religion?

Could such a program succeed? The answer lies with women.

If the woman accepts this program and votes for its candidates, she truly will then be lacking in mind and religion. These candidates are more acquainted than us with most women. As Spengler has said, there is no dictator who imposes himself on his nation but there are nations of slaves which make their dictator.

Nevertheless, if women use their tremendous influence that is not dominated by anyone—thanks to God and the Constitution—to pull the rug out from under the feet of this group, and pull the seats from under those gentleman who are leading a luxurious life each served by four women, this would mean that women's silence over this slander and disparagement was neither a sign of satisfaction nor a sign of mental weakness or retardation. It is only the silence shared by all oppressed human groups, until the moment of action comes, in accordance with a poet's saying that "firmness was born dumb." Only here all that was published moves into agreement with the constructive role of the press and becomes worth the time spent in reading it. Only here can all of us—men and women—laugh at all utterances that vacate the mind and logic and consecrate all forms of coercion and despotism, and only here can we say to those making these utterances: "You curse us... and we elect you!"

Paper on Israel's Nuclear Power, U.S. Backing

JN3110121289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Oct 89 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Why a Nuclear Power in the Middle East?"]

[Text] Reports about nuclear cooperation between Israel and the racist regime in Pretoria, the transfer of U.S. technology from Israel to Pretoria, and the two countries' undertaking of a successful long-range nuclear missile launching are clear evidence that Israel is not stopping at the limits of its current aggression against the Arab world. Instead, Israel plans for further expansion at the expense of the Arab world with the help of the nuclear threat it holds over the region.

U.S. press sources have affirmed that Israel is capable of producing the hydrogen bomb. This report alone is enough to ascertain what designs of aggression and expansion Israel harbors against the Arab homeland. Israel's designs are far from the current masquerade of searching for a peace in the region, which can never be established between a state that possesses nuclear capabilities and parties that cannot compete with the nuclear option.

In response to the serious reports that are leaked from Washington on Israel's nuclear capabilities, the Arab world can do nothing more than complain and mobilize international public opinion against such a state, which drools after the sources of this power while the two superpowers are doing their best to eliminate these kinds of weapons. However, the truth remains that the United States, the strategic ally of Israel, has turned a blind eye to Israel's nuclear capabilities, and that Israel would not have dared to carry out such a nuclear experiment had it not been for U.S. technology.

RJO Threatens To Kill Americans if Bill Passes

NC0111203989 Paris AFP in English 2036 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Beirut, Nov 1 (AFP)—A pro-Iranian underground group Wednesday vowed to kill 10 Americans if the U.S. Congress passes a bill calling for the death penalty for "terrorist" murders of Americans abroad.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization, which holds two U.S. hostages in Lebanon, said it would "pursue and punish Americans all over the world" if the life or freedom of so much as "one revolutionary" were endangered by the proposed U.S. law.

In a statement received by a Western news agency here, the group warned that "the Senate and the American people will bear the ill-fated consequences of the adoption of this bill."

The U.S. Senate last Thursday approved a bill stipulating the death penalty for those convicted of the "terrorist murders" of U.S. citizens in other countries.

The bill, passed by 79 votes to 20 by the Senate, must now be debated by the House of Representatives.

If it is adopted, it would allow U.S. courts to hand a death sentence to anyone convicted of the "terrorist" murders of U.S. citizens abroad.

The threat by the Revolutionary Justice Organization came hours after the approval of a bill in the Iranian parliament calling for the arrest and trial of U.S. citizens who harm Iranian interests.

The Iranian legislation, which was a response to the U.S. bill, applies to "all countries that directly or indirectly collaborate with the United States in the kidnapping of Iranian citizens or in plots against their life."

The statement by the Revolutionary Justice Organization was authenticated by a black-and-white photograph of Edward Austin Tracy, an American writer held by the group since October 1986.

Another American, accountant Joseph Cicippio, has been held by the group since September 1986.

Islamic Jihad Statement on Saudi Diplomat Death

NC0111173489 Paris AFP in English 1717 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, Nov 1 (AFP)—The sole remaining Saudi diplomat in Beirut was shot dead Wednesday in an attack claimed by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group. The clandestine group vowed to strike again at the "servants of the devil."

'Ali al-Marzuq, 53, was gunned down from a passing car outside his home in a residential area of mainly Moslem Syrian-controlled West Beirut, police said. His Syrian driver was slightly wounded.

In a statement received by a Western news agency here, Islamic Jihad, which holds two American hostages, said Mr al-Marzuq was "an important officer of the Saudi intelligence services in Lebanon."

Mr al-Marzuq was responsible for paying the Lebanese staff of the Saudi Embassy, which according to informed sources has been empty of diplomats since it was ransacked by pro-Iranian fundamentalists in August 1984.

He also took the diplomatic pouch between Damascus and Beirut. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad said the killing was a response to the "odious massacre by traitorous Saudi leaders of 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims and their previous crime against four Saudi mujahedeen (fighters)."

"The servants of the devil thought they could put fear in the hearts of Moslems but they were wrong, as we will leave none of them in peace and we will kill them wherever they are," the statement added.

Islamic Jihad authenticated its statement with a photograph of U.S. journalist Terry Anderson, who has been held by the group since March 16, 1985.

Mr Anderson, who turned 42 Friday, was shown at a table cutting a birthday cake. Islamic Jihad released a similar photograph a year ago. [passage omitted]

Chamber Speaker Wants 4 Nov Electoral Session

NC0111190389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] [Chamber Speaker] Husayn al-Husayni has addressed invitations to the deputies to hold three sessions on Saturday, 4 November, at Mansur Palace, the temporary venue for the Chamber of Deputies. At the sessions they will elect the chamber's office staff, endorse the accord document, and elect a president of the Republic.

Details Provided for Sessions

NC0111201589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1950 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] [Chamber Speaker] Husayn al-Husayni invited the Lebanese deputies to hold three sessions on Saturday, 4 November, at Mansur Palace. The first session will be held at 1000 to elect the chamber's office staff, the second at 1130 to endorse the Arab document, and the third session at 1200 to elect a president of the Republic.

'Awn Comments on Sessions

NC0111204989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has noted that what is being marketed outside Lebanon is a smuggled solution similar to drug smuggling and unconstitutional in relation to the Lebanese cause.

He said: As of now, with only a few hours until a date for a session to elect a president of the Republic is fixed, we do not know who the candidate is, what his program is, or what he wants.

In an interview with the BBC, he pointed out that the Chamber of Deputies was elected in 1972 and that this chamber has been renewing its own term since 1976. He emphasized that the chamber has lost its representational status. In al-Ta'if, he said, this chamber overstepped its powers as a parliamentary council and encroached upon the Constitution, making itself a constituent assembly while it is a legislative body.

The al-Ta'if breaches, he added, are countless. People in other countries are usually tried—not only (?detained)—for such breaches.

Replying to a question, 'Awn affirmed that the many local, regional, and international stands in support of the al-Ta'if accord cannot and may not give advice about relinquishing Lebanese sovereignty and legitimizing the Syrian occupation.

He said: We are defending our sovereignty and homeland. We will never be among those who give concessions to the people and history. Anyone who wishes to offer concessions, let him do so. We shall then resist him.

'Awn stressed that no one wants to return to military means and war. He noted that the al-Ta'if accord legally leads to a point of no return; that is to say the point of completely bringing down the sovereignty and the homeland at a later stage.

He said: This accord should not be indulged regarding the issues of sovereignty and distinguished agreements [as heard] with Syria.

It is noteworthy that a telephone conversation took place today between Gen Michel 'Awn and Deputies George Sa'adah and Butrus Harb in the presence of former President Charles Hilu. As the spiritual committee that has been formed in Bkirki [Maronite patriarchate seat] has proposed, it was agreed to hold a meeting for frank discussion and understanding between Gen 'Awn and the deputies, perhaps in Bkirki itself next Friday.

AFP said the contact between Gen 'Awn and Deputies Sa'adah and Harb is a first sign of easing tension and the success of former President Hilu's mediation.

The agency cited Christian political sources as saying that consultations have begun among the Christian group to elect a single candidate for the Presidency and to form the proposed national reconciliation government.

Regarding security measures, AFP said a venue 1 and ½ km long and 1 and ½ km wide has been fixed and that a security unit, made up of representatives from the security forces, the Army, and Algerian observers, will be in charge of this place.

In another development, Lebanese Ambassador in Paris Fu'ad al- Turk has conveyed a message from the prime minister to the Lebanese deputies, who met in the (Royal Mosso) Hotel in the French capital. In his message, 'Awn called on the deputies to return to Lebanon, specifically to East Beirut, so that he can consult with them on the al-Ta'if accord, which they have reached to achieve a common denominator before the election of a new president of the Republic.

Deputies Invited To Attend

NC0211073289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Extensive contacts which took place during the past 24 hours on the three-sided axis Bkirki-B'abda-(Royale Monsou) Hotel in Paris resulted in a positive atmosphere regarding a possible solution. Husayn al-Husayni, former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, has invited the deputies to three electoral sessions to be held on Saturday. Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi consulted with parties in both the East and West Beirut. In the eastern area, Ibrahimi met with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, Lebanese forces commander Dr Samir Ja'ja', deputy Phalangist Party leader Lawyer Munir al-Haj, and Maronite League Chairman Shakir Abu- Sulayman. Ibrahimi also contacted Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr.

Informed sources report that yesterday's contacts between Bkirki and B'abda, particularly in light of Bishop Roland Abu-Jawdah's meeting with Gen Michel 'Awn, led to some progress regarding holding a meeting between Patriarch Sfayr, Gen 'Awn, and the eastern area deputies tomorrow, Friday. Bishop Abu-Jawdah conveyed the deputies' demands to Gen 'Awn, particularly regarding the guarantees the deputies requested in order for them to return to Lebanon. An agreement in principle was reached which provided for the return of all the deputies from Paris. Communication took place between Gen 'Awn and Deputies Kazim al-Khalil, Dr George Sa'adah, and Butrus Harb. The prime minister has reportedly agreed to meet with the deputies provided he meets with them in B'abda first, after which the Bkirki meeting will take place. Hence, the sources noted that Gen 'Awn has postponed the news conference which he scheduled for today.

As a result of the contacts last night, it has been learned that the deputies now in Paris have agreed to send a representative committee to Beirut. The committee will consist of Deputies Kazim al-Khalil and Dr George Sa'adah. This is despite the fact that efforts have been made for the return of all the deputies and to expand the Bkirki meeting to include the heads of the Christian communities.

Informed sources did not rule out the possibility that the intensive contacts and expected meetings may result in the postponement of the elections of a Chamber of Deputies speaker, the Chamber office staff, and a president of the Repulic as well as the ratification of the

al-Ta'if document that Al-Husayni said would take place in Mansur Palace on Saturday. It has been learned that Al-Husayni would call for a second session in another location within the period specified by the Arab tripartite committee if Saturday's session in Mansur Palace could not be held.

Eastern Deputies Not To Attend

NC0211084289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Eastern area deputies will not attend the electoral session on Saturday [4 November]. They will be awaiting the results of consultations with various leaders, led by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn.

Meanwhile, Patriarch Sfayr, accompanied by Bishops Roland Abu-Jawdah and Bisharah al-Ra'i, arrived at B'abda Palace a short while ago and immediately began a meeting with Prime Minister Gen 'Awn.

Prime Minister Telephones Sa'adah, Urges Return

NC0111121889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn conducted a telephone conversation at noon today with Deputy Dr George Sa'adah, leader of the Phalangist Party, and Deputy Butrus Harb who are in Paris. This was done during a meeting which former President Charles Hilu was holding with Gen 'Awn in B'abda Palace. Former President Hilu said after the meeting that Gen 'Awn stressed the need for the deputies to return in order to discuss the situation, saying he guarantees their freedom. Hilu said that he also spoke with Deputies Sa'adah and Harb. It was decided that he would telephone them again this afternoon. Hilu said he hopes that the date of the presidential election would be postponed so that further consultations could be held.

UN Security Council Members on 'Lebanon's Unity'

NC0211112489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Commenting on the joint statement recently issued by the five permanent UN Security Council member states, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has said: While we thank the five big powers for their positive stand, we announce our firm assurance to completely adhere to the reform principles contained in the al-Ta'if draft agreement. We express our firm desire to vigorously seek to achieve Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity under peace, harmony, and good relations with our neighbors based on equality and mutual interests.

'Awn added: However, it must be noted that the implementation of the contents of the aforementioned joint statement depends, to a large extent, on further positive efforts by the United States, and this is what we hope it will do. If we blame Washington for failure to give its policy on Lebanon a greater practical context, this absolutely does not mean that we do not harbor complete friendship and sympathy toward the American people and their present administration. We appeal to Washington to review its policy toward Lebanon, particularly after new elements have appeared in the internal and regional situations. Such a review, 'Awn added, will give the U.S. policy a deeper context and greater consistency with the new Lebanese changes and the anticipated regional developments.

'Awn Says Nation Will Confront 'Conspiracy'

NC0111192289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General 'Awn said to a visiting delegation today: I and the Lebanese people are one, and we will confront the conspiracy in its final stage and will change the situation in the homeland. A modern homeland built with ideas based on human values and future concepts, in which a citizen can be assured of his future and dignity, can only be established by the younger generations. Our fateful battle is between a future generation that wants to emerge from under the ground and stones pressing them down because these stones [words indistinct]. These stones began to roll and will continue to roll forever.

Deputies To Meet With Sfayr, 'Awn in Bkirki

NC0211083289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] A meeting will be held in Bkirki tomorrow. The meeting will be attended by Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr, General 'Awn, and a delegation of eastern area deputies including Deputies George Sa'adah and Kazim al-Khalil to adopt a final stand on the al-Ta'if agreement and the Chamber of Deputies' elections session slated for Saturday.

Eastern area deputies held a number of meetings in Paris yesterday to discuss developments and General 'Awn's call for them to return to Beirut for consultations. Following the meetings, it was announced that a delegation comprising Deputies Sa'adah and Al-Khalil will go to Beirut. The other deputies will remain in Paris pending the results of the delegation's consultations with General 'Awn.

Sfayr-'Awn Meeting Ends

NC0211105689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Patriarch Sfayr returned to Bkirki from his visit to B'abda a few minutes ago. Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Hikmat 'Abd-Khudayr was waiting for Patriarch Sfayr in Bkirki to meet with him.

Following his meeting with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn in B'abda, Patriarch Sfayr said that they

conducted a general review of the political situation. He added: We hope that there will be good in this for Lebanon.

Asked whether an understanding was reached to overcome this delicate stage, he said: We always have mutual understanding with his excellency the prime minister. God willing, the Lebanese will reach an understanding that will save them and their country. Lebanon can only be saved through understanding.

Asked whether he supports the invitation extended to the Chamber of Deputies to elect a president of the Republic on Saturday while the candidate for the post is still unknown, Patriarch Sfayr said: This is up to those concerned, and we have nothing to do with it.

Asked whether the meeting between Gen 'Awn and the deputies in Bkirki will take place tomorrow, Patriarch Sfayr said: We hope so. When asked if the discussion dealt with the elections issue, Patriarch Sfayr said: We discussed everything. Asked whether the deputies will attend the Bkirki meeting, which is scheduled to be held tomorrow, he said: I do not know.

Government Reaction to 'Awn's UN Message Viewed

NC0211122189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Acting on instructions from Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss to explain the government's stand on developments, Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, Foreign Ministry acting secretary general, met today with Gaby 'Akar, counsellor at the U.S. embassy; French Ambassador Rene Ala; UK Ambassador Allan Ramsey; and Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha. Sutaytiyah handed the envoys copies of the memorandum on the Lebanese Government's stand regarding the message which General 'Awn sent to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

Sutaytiyah is scheduled to meet now with the PRC ambassador for the same purpose.

Iddih Comments on Al-Ta'if Agreements

PM0211100589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Oct 89 p 4

[Interview with National Bloc leader Raymond Iddih by Huda al-Husayni in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husayni] Do the al-Ta'if meeting, its results, and the support it received from the parties give the impression that the Arab and international atmosphere is now conducive to restoring Lebanon's stability?

[Iddih] What do you mean by stability?

[Al-Husayni] An end to the war!

[Iddih] We are all—and I am in the forefront—against the war. The Lebanese people are against the war. What is important is for foreign parties not to create the problems. They must prevent their allies in the militias from continuing the fighting and shelling. Yesterday the Amal Movement clashed with Hizballah on the coast, with the result that one or two people were killed and several were wounded.

[Al-Husayni] Generally, can the war stop?

[Iddih] Of course, because the higher tripartite committee—the two kings and the president—is working for that, and so is the security committee headed by Lakhdar Ibrahimi and comprising the two sides of the Lebanese Army together with militia representatives. I considered that an erroneous thing to do, because there is a demand for the disbandment of the militias. Besides, how can we bring in militia representatives, revive them, and then let them sit down next to Algerian officers who graduated from military colleges, and allow Lebanese officers to sit down next to the militias which have betrayed, plundered, robbed, and murdered—that is shameful.

[Al-Husayni] The draft of the new national charter includes a provision that the militias be disbanded within 6 months of the president's election.

[Iddih] Fine, and I am for the disbandment of the militias. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] You have announced your nomination...

[Iddih] I have renewed my nomination which I announced in 1988, but within the conditions which you know—the conditions which I set for myself: First, that the Chamber of Deputies elect me while I am here in Paris. Second, if elected, I will contact the five major states, the permanent members of the Security Council, and ask them to implement Resolution 425, for which they voted in 1978, and also Resolution 509, for which they voted in 1982. These two resolutions stipulate the Israeli Army's unconditional withdrawal from all Lebanese territory. I will also ask them to implement Resolution 587 of 1986, which stipulates the deployment of international forces from the Al-Litani River to the Lebanese-Israeli borders, provided that all that is done within 30 days.

Some people wondered how I could give a 30-day deadline for the implementation of these resolutions by the five states, and I tell them that the period is not 30 days only, it is 11 years and 30 days, that is, from 1978 until now, and I am adding 30 days. Besides, there are no more than 100 Israeli Army personnel in the south. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Was it possible for the deputies to achieve a better result than the one they reached in al-Ta'if?

[Iddih] I agree with most of the amendments made to the section concerning political reforms. But I do not agree with what was mentioned in the section entitled "Extending the State's Sovereignty Over All Lebanese Territory." Nor do I agree with Section IV: "Lebanese-Syrian Relations."

[Al-Husayni] But in his address to the deputies the Saudi monarch said: Some see that there are gaps in what we have arrived at, that some sentences are better than others, or that it would have been better to use another method. And he added: All that can be achieved. [as received]

[Iddih] That is very good. But I protest against some things. I do not agree with the phrase "the national accord government." What does it mean? I deduce from this phrase that half the ministers must be in favor of Syria. They should have put the Lebanese Government instead of the Syrian Government. The phrase "national accord government" does not exist in our parliamentary, democratic vocabulary, nor does it exist in our Constitution. There is a national unity government, but it is not called in advance a national accord government. This is in addition to the redeployment issue mentioned in Clause 4 of Section II after Al-Biqa', the western Al-Biqa', Hammana, Al-Mudayrij, and 'Ayn Darah. And the text says "if necessary elsewhere," which is vague and extendable.

And in the document there is a reference to the Syrian forces' "stay period," and the word "withdrawal" does not exist in the text.

Then we come to Lebanese-Syrian relations, there is the phrase "coordination and cooperation in various fields," and that means education, the economy, defense, the Army....

[Al-Husayni] And if your conditions are met and you go there, what will you do?

[Iddih] I assure you I will not go. The United States does not want me, as a result of influence from Israel. Since 1919—that is, before the Israeli state was established—the Zionist lobby has always wanted Israel's borders to start from the al-Litani River in south Lebanon, because it wants to take water from that river. And that is still the aim. And since 1953 I have been reiterating that in the Chamber of Deputies. People did not understand what I meant, but they do now. Israel is after the water of al-Litani, al-Hasbani, and al-Wazzani. It is already benefiting from al-Hasbani and al-Wazzani, and al-Litani is the only one left. This is the whole story.

[Al-Husayni] Why did you not participate in the al-Ta'if conference?

[Iddih] Because there was no possibility of making fundamental amendments with regard to extending sovereignty and relations with Syria.

[Al-Husayni] You could at least have recorded your opposition.

[Iddih] I do not want to record my opposition. Everything that happened does not concern me, since I was not there. As a deputy I have nothing to do with what happened in al-Ta'if.

[Al-Husayni] But as a deputy you are committed to one aspect...

[Iddih] I did not commit myself to anything.

[Al-Husayni] To electing the president of the Republic before 7 November, and you have renewed your nomination!

[Iddih] Election is something legitimate for us. And how can I be committed to it, when I took no part. Some of the participants said yes, and some said no. And according to my information, only one deputy, namely Hasan al-Riha'i, abstained. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Do you not believe that a strong Lebanese Government representing all the Lebanese can facilitate the withdrawals?

[Iddih] No, no, no. For the achievement of Israel's withdrawal there is only the Security Council.

[Al-Husayni] But it does not respect Security Council resolutions.

[Iddih] Very well, and that means that the five major states are in agreement with the United States and Israel that Israel—in 1, 2, 4, or 5 years—can annex south Lebanon from al-Litani, just as it annexed both Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

[Al-Husayni] An idea aired by Henry Kissinger is now being raised, namely, the need to make changes to Lebanon's, Jordan's, Syria's, and Israel's borders.

[Iddih] Of course, and I was the first to expose this plot. I called it a U.S. plot. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] There is talk that Israel is working to establish a sectarian state extending from the Golan to al-Jiyah in Lebanon!

[Iddih] My conscience is clear. I warned the Lebanese people 14 years ago, when I said there was a plan to Cyprusize Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Are there any points of agreement between you, Walid Junblatt, Nabih Birri, and Michel 'Awn?

[Iddih] Walid Junblatt wants the the Syrians to stay, and Nabih Birri wants the premiership, and probably he is right, because he considers that the Shiites outnumber the Sunnites. As for Michel 'Awn, he undoubtedly has awakened the national spirit among the Lebanese, both Christians and Muslims. Of course I was against the phrase "liberation war," because he has no military capabilities to liberate Lebanon. But it was the first time that a head of government had told the Lebanese, Arab, and international public opinion the truth. This is why he has received support from a sizable section of the Lebanese people, who want Lebanon to return to being a united republican, independent state whose sovereignty extends over its entire territory.

Phalangist Leader Sa'adah on Al-Ta'if Accord

NC0111192789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah has stated that the best guarantee for the agreement reached during the parliamentary meetings in al-Ta'if rests in the unity of ranks and guarantee of confidence. All guarantees will be worthless if the element of confidence does not exist, Dr Sa'adah added. The Phalangist Party leader went on to say: What we accomplished represents a part of our demands, and that is why we had reservations until after the higher Arab committee's statement was issued.

In a statement to the press while on his way to Paris yesterday, Dr Sa'adah said: We had only two options: Either to reject—and this means the collapse of the Arab initiative and its Arab support—the return of war and destruction and the continued presence of foreign troops indefinitely or to abide by the rays of hope which we are trying to make a reality.

Dr Sa'adah said: Both rejection and acceptance have consequences. Although we were assigned the task in our capacity as deputies, I did not make a unilateral decision despite the consensus of the deputies. Rather, I had several contacts with his beatitude the patriarch, the Lebanese Front's leader, and some spiritual and political leaders. All these contacts were made either directly or through party channels. In light of these consultations and exchanges, in light of the amendments which we managed to introduce, and in light of the speech made by King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz and the guarantees contained in the higher Arab committee's statements, I gained my conviction and consequently, I approved the decision which I believe represents a historic turning point for Lebanon's fate.

Envoy Affirms Iraq's Support for 'Arab Efforts'

NC0211122789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] After his meeting with Patriarch Sfayr today, Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Hikmat 'Abd-Khudayr said that Iraq supports the Arab efforts. He declared that the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement and the holding of the presidential election are matters for the Lebanese. Iraq does not interfere in these issues, he said.

Group 'Surprised' at Ibrahimi's Karami Meetings

NC0111212389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has expressed surprise at Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi's meetings with lawyer 'Umar Karami, in his capacity as a person in charge of Tripoli. It noted that Tripoli does not recognize such agents, adding that 'Umar Karami does not even represent his own family in Tripoli.

The organization asserted in its statement that any accord against the liberation of Lebanon from the Syrian occupation will remain only ink on paper.

Ibrahimi Comments on Meeting With 'Awn

NC0111135289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] General 'Awn met in the B'abda Palace today with Lakhdar Ibrahimi, who described the meeting as good.

Ibrahimi said: We talked with the general about the Arab plan and ways of implementing it. That was all.

Asked about the atmosphere of his meeting with the prime minister, he replied: My meetings with the prime minister are always good.

In another development, General 'Awn, in his capacity as interior minister, this morning chaired a meeting of the internal security council, which comprises the heads of the state's security departments. The council discussed current developments and decided to keep its session open.

Arab League's Ibrahimi Meets Ja'ja', Others

NC0111213289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Arab Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi called on Phalangist deputy leader attorney Munir al-Haj at the Phalangist headquarters today and contacted Patriarch Sfayr and Salim al-Huss.

At 1300 hours, Ibrahimi met with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja'.

After the meeting, Ibrahimi said: The atmosphere was good, praise be to God. We had discussed what is in the interest of Lebanon.

Leaving the Phalangist headquarters, Al-Haj said the following:

[Begin Al-Haj recording] The issue of sovereignty could be dealt with from two aspects. One is the aspect of the wording—that is, by dwelling on the text of the article on sovereignty and verifying whether it constitutes a firm guarantee or whether it is subject to interpretation as some say. There is another point that must be clarified—the size and nature of the guarantees given for implementating what had been agreed upon in al-Ta'if, especially regarding sovereignty. As lawyers and politicians, we have our own interpretation of the wording. We asked Ibrahimi about the importance, nature, and size of the guarantees given to the deputies to make them agree on the article of sovereignty. Ibrahimi told us the Arab guarantees are serious and have an international warranty. He said he deeply feels that these guarantees are not merely verbal and moral, but that they instead stem from firm and absolute determination on the part of the Arabs to put an end to the Lebanese crisis properly. [end Al-Haj recording]

For his part, at the Phalangist headquarters, Ibrahimi said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What are the results of your current contacts?

[Ibrahimi] We are continuing our contacts with all the brothers in Lebanon as we always do when we deal with an important plan that we have to implement. This is what is now taking place. I apologize for being a little late in arriving here at the Phalangist Party headquarters for talks with its deputy leader Munir al-Haj about the current phase. Also, I am here to express gratitude and appreciation for the role party leader Dr George Sa'adah has played in this important stage in defense of Lebanon's interest and unity and for rebuilding Lebanon soundly and restoring its genuine sovereignty. In fact, I am talking about Sa'adah and many other brothers; but since we are here now, we mention the party leader. They have played a role for which they should be thanked. I was honored to see their work in al-Ta'if and God willing, we will continue to see their future work to reconstruct Lebanon.

[Unidentified reporter] There are stiff political [word indistinct]. General Michel 'Awn....

[Ibrahimi, interrupting] I prefer not to comment on others' statements. [end recording]

French Envoy Said To Visit Beirut Secretly

NC0211115889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The AL-DIYAR newspaper reports today that Jean-Francois Deniau, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly, made a secret visit to Beirut last Sunday night as an official emissary of French President Francois Mitterrand. He met for 5 hours with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn to get his views on three subjects: How will he deal with the al-Ta'if agreement? How will he deal with the deputies and the invitation to hold presidential elections? What is his position on these two subjects in light of the positions of the various parties?

The paper noted that Gen 'Awn informed Deniau that with regard to the reforms in the al-Ta'if document, he might or might not approve of them, but he will not take a hardline stand on this issue. The basic issue to him is the sovereignty article. He maintains that what happened in al-Ta'if not only did not ensure sovereignty but was also very negative.

Two Explosions in West Beirut; No Casualties

NC0211074289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Two explosions occurred in West Beirut last night. The first explosion took place near the Saudi Embassy shortly before 2100 and the second in the Hawd al-Wilayah area, near the girls' school, shortly after 2230. No casualties have been reported.

Al-Asad Congratulates Turkey's Ozal on Election

JN0111161989 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Damascus, 1 Nov (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of congratulation to Turgut Ozal on his election as new president of the Republic of Turkey.

In his cable, the president expressed wishes of success for Mr Ozal, and confidence that the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Turkey will continue to be promoted.

King Fahd Thanks Al-Asad for Efforts on Lebanon

JN0111195689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received a telephone call from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, who thanked the president for the efforts Syria exerted for the sake of Lebanon. The president thanked his majesty the king for Saudi Arabia's efforts for the sake of Lebanon, and also thanked him for the Arab tripartite committee's efforts. The president affirmed that the cooperative efforts between Syria and the tripartite committee will continue to help sisterly Lebanon and extricate it from the difficult circumstances it is experiencing. During the telephone conversation, bilateral issues were also discussed.

TISHRIN Interviews Cuban on Mideast Issues

PM0111163589 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 18 Oct 89 p 2

[Interview with Rodolfo Puentes Ferro, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, by Nazih al-Shufi; place, date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Al-Shufi] The objective of your visit to our country is to strengthen relations between the two countries and the two parties. What is the status of these relations and on what foundations are they based?

[Ferro] Between our countries there are cordial relations, foremost among them the relations between the Communist Party of Cuba and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. And there are strong agreements. We have concluded strong and continuing agreements based on our special political relations and the exchange of information, views, and expertise. These relations have always developed for the sake of securing joint or close views on international issues. And this policy has contributed to strengthening relations between the two governments and peoples. And, in this context, it is natural for Cuba and Syria to adopt a joint position against imperialism and Zionism, as well as apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination in South Africa and Israel.

So there is a united view vis-a-vis the Palestinian Arab people's right to full sovereignty and liberation. There are also common stances within the international framework, especially within the Nonaligned Movement. Such stances were embodied in the Belgrade summit and in the recent UN session. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shufi] And what would you wish to say on this occasion?

[Ferro] The visit has been fruitful and excellent in many aspects. We implemented our joint program in full. Most importantly, we held several meetings during which we exchanged our views in a comradely way with the party leadership in Syria. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shufi] What about the question of international detente and its influence on the regional and international situation?

[Ferro] Frankly, I say that the Soviet comrades now view all economic, political, and social aspects in a new way, and we appreciate that view. Our peoples have the right to rely on the Soviet Union, and we respect that method. And in our country we are now proceeding on the road of correction in order to resolve the economic situation and the errors made over past years, and others respect our method. We have special qualities which are mutually respected. And these principles lead to the broadening of friendly relations between the October revolution and the Cuban revolution. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shufi] Undoubtedly Latin America's concerns are no different from our region's concerns and the rapid changes and developments in it, especially since the intifadah was launched. What is the Cuban view of the Arab issues?

[Ferro] Cuba has backed, and still backs the Arabs' central cause—Palestine, the Palestinian people's intifadah, and unity among the Palestinian revolutionary factions. And here we say that the Zionist forces working to abort the intifadah and swallow up the Palestinian people's rights must be confronted with a counterforce, namely backing for the intifadah at both the international and Arab levels. And we see new prospects for the Palestinian cause in the light of the intifadah. Such prospects will allow the liberation of Palestine, including Jerusalem.

The Arab countries must now play a very important role within the framework of solidarity with the Palestinian people, their intifadah, and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

Cuba backs that organization and its decisions, and we believe that any formula not respecting the Palestinian people's rights is worthless and futile. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

More on Arrival of UN Relief Convoys in Kabul

BK0111150589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1447 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov 1 (AFP)—A United Nations convoy carrying seeds and fertilizer from Iran has arrived in Afghanistan's western province of Herat, Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Hakim said here Wednesday [1 November].

The small convoy of trucks carrying 450 tonnes of seeds and 150 tonnes of fertiliser reached the province Wednesday and distribution was under way, Gen. Hakim said in an interview. He said a team of three U.N. officials accompanying the Iranian-driven convoy was supervising the distribution operations.

The general, who was a former mayor of Kabul, also confirmed that the so-called "Salam express" carrying the U.N. aid across the Soviet border from Finland had also entered Afghanistan.

He said some 150,000 tonnes of wheat and 15 tonnes of general goods had come by rail to Hairatan, an Afghan border post, adding that the goods were worth about 750,000 dollars.

Earlier reports had said the relief goods carried by the Salam express had been transferred to about 200 trucks driven by Afghan drivers and were stalled at Mazar-e Sharif, two days' drive from Kabul.

Government spokemen had said earlier that the convoy, named after the United Nations' "Salam" relief operation of the same name, was stuck north of the mountainous Salang Pass north of Kabul because the pass had been occupied by mujahidin resistance fighters. The goods would be distributed countrywide and some would come to Kabul, Gen. Hakim said.

Defense Minister Tanay Visits Salang Posts

LD0111180689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, yesterday toured the security posts around the Salang highway. The military section of the BIA reports that during his tour the defense minister inspected the combat readiness of the Armed Forces units and companies. During separate meetings with officials of the Armed Forces units and companies in Salang, he praised their heroism and self sacrifice in protecting supply convoys carrying vital cargoes for Kabul citizens, and drew their attention to their future responsibilities toward maintaining the country's peace and security and rendering service to our compatriots. Lt Gen Shahnawaz Tanay decorated a number of personnel of the aforementioned units.

According to another report, yesterday the defense minister visited the forces in Baghlan and decorated troops and officers who had displayed courage in carrying out their duties.

General Mobin Killed in Jalalabad Plane Crash

LD0111195189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The body of martyred Brigadier General Asadollah Mobin was respectfully buried this morning in his family grave. [passage omitted]

Martyred Brig Gen Asadollah Mobin was killed on 31 October in an air crash when his aircraft hit a tree while landing at the Jalalabad airport.

According to another report in accordance with a decree from esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, martyred Brig Gen Asadollah Mobin was promoted to the rank of major general.

Pakistani Envoy Summoned to Foreign Ministry

BK0211094989 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Charge d'affaires of the ministry [as heard] of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the afternoon of 30 October and the following was conveyed to him by the acting director of first political division:

The Government of Pakistan, by means of promoting the policy of state terrorism and flagrant violations of Geneva accords, continues arming and equipping the opponent armed extremists with lethal weapons, killing our innocent compatriots—including old people, women, and children—following the supply of such arms. According to the reports of security officials of the country, 105 rockets have been fired on Kabul city by Pakistani-backed extremist elements from 25 October to 30 October 1989, which caused the martyrdom of 22 and wounding of 79 people. Eight private residential flats, four shops, and a vehicle, and a gurdwara [Sikh temple] of Hindu sect were also seriously damaged.

While the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan condemns such acts and strongly protests against the Government of Pakistan for such barbaric deeds of the mercenary extremists, it once again refers to the open interferences of Pakistan in the internal affairs of our country and considers the Pakistani officials responsible for the grave consequences.

Spain Told To Negotiate Jailed Writer's Release

BK0111144589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov 1 (AFP)—The government here wants Spain to negotiate directly with Afghanistan to

secure the release of a Spanish travel writer sentenced to five years imprisonment, a Foreign Ministry source said Wednesday [1 November]. The government wants direct contacts with Spain on the release of Jorge Sanchez Garcia and does not want to act through an intermediary, the source said.

No official statement has been made of the Kabul regime's apparent new stand, which comes less than one month after the government summoned the Turkish ambassador here for official-level talks on Mr. Garcia.

Turkey has been negotiating on behalf of Spain for the liberation of the 35-year-old writer captured August 1 for entering the country illegally from Pakistan.

"It (the release) depends on when Spain contacts us directly," the Foreign Ministry official said, adding that he had heard rumours that the Spanish Embassy in India was planning to send a negotiator. "Earlier, we have set free journalists from Italy and France, but only after direct negotiations, and Spain should also establish direct links as we have diplomatic ties with that country," he added.

Turkish diplomats were not immediately available for comment on the new twist in the case.

Mr. Garcia, who was with anti-government rebels before his capture in southern Qandahar Province by security forces, has been convicted of "gathering propaganda against the government." A native of the Barcelona area, Mr. Garcia had earlier told reporters that he planned to write a travel book about his visits to several Asian countries.

He was last seen by journalists in a news conference on September 16, two days after Kabul released a Frenchman, Xavier Lamire, who had been captured a month earlier in the south while working for human rights organisation Handicap International. Mr. Lemire was with a group of rebels transporting artificial limbs when they ran into a government ambush.

Radio Afghanistan, All India Radio Sign Accord

LD0111092989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 31, BAKHTAR—A protocol of cooperation between the Radio Afghanistan and All-India Radio was signed in the Ministry of Information and Culture of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) today and the documents were exchanged.

The protocol was signed from the Afghan side by Ahmad Bashir Roygar, minister of information and culture of the RA and from the Indian side, by Muhammad Hamid al-Ansari, ambassador of India in Afghanistan.

As per the protocol, exchange of radio programmes between the sides, training of cadres, and dispatch of delegations to both countries will be made.

During the signing ceremony of the protocol deputy ministers of the Ministry of Information and Culture, president of the radio-television and Afghan film and cinematography were also present.

India

Congress Party Calls Bofors Document 'Forgery'

BK0111162389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1505 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 1 (AFP)—India's ruling Congress (I) Party Wednesday [1 November] condemned as a "forgery" a published document indicating that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was personally implicated in a lingering arms kickbacks scandal.

Congress (I) spokesman Anand Sharma also lashed out at two senior Indian editors, one of whom he said was practising "instigated journalism" with the prime minister as the target.

"Yesterday's document was a forgery," he said, referring to a facsimile published by THE HINDU newspaper Tuesday. The accompanying report said that Mr. Gandhi was personally involved in the multi-million dollar scandal linked to Sweden's Bofors arms company.

It was the strongest statement yet by the Congress (I) on the Bofors scandal since it erupted in 1987 and comes three weeks ahead of crucial parliamentary elections which will decide whether Mr. Gandhi remains India's prime minister.

Bofors has been accused of paying huge bribes to key Indian officials to win a 1.3-billion-dollar artillery contract in 1986. The corruption scandal, India's biggest, has been kept alive by media disclosures backed by documents.

"What has been referred to as investigative journalism is instigated journalism, partisan journalism," added Mr. Sharma, addressing a crowded press conference in the ruling party's headquarters here.

The spokesman said there were "gaping holes" in THE HINDU facsimile of a July 1987 entry in the diary of Martin Ardbo, a former president of Bofors now facing trial in Sweden on charges of illegal arms exports.

Mr. Ardbo's entry referred to an alleged meeting between a "Gandhi trustee lawyer" who was not named and Bob Wilson, the representative of a London-based firm accused of being one of the front companies that received the kickbacks.

Mr. Sharma said it was "intriguing" that Mr. Ardbo had used a diary from the Indian Subcontinent, that he had noted a Geneva telephone number which did not exist in 1987, and that he had used English for "Gandhi trustee lawyer" when he had written everything else in Swedish.

Mr. Sharma said Tuesday's HINDU report "proved" that the investigation by THE HINDU and other Indian newspapers into the Bofors scandal was actually "a campaign of disinformation" which was "unethical and diabolical".

"The target was the institution of the prime minister of India," he added.

Mr. Sharma evaded answers to questions on whether the more than 100 facsimiles published by THE HINDU previously—and authenticated by the Indian Government—were also part of the alleged "campaign of disinformation".

He accused Narasimhan Ram, associate editor of THE HINDU, and the INDIAN EXPRESS editor Arun Shourie, a known Gandhi critic, of unprofessional and unethical journalism.

Mr. Ram, along with THE HINDU's Geneva correspondent Chitra Subramaniam, has been in the forefront of the Bofors expose, which has shattered Mr. Gandhi's once "Mr. Clean" image. Mr. Ram was practising "instigated" and "partisan" journalism, Mr. Sharma said, and branded as "abusive" Wednesday's INDIAN EXPRESS editorial that called Mr. Gandhi "provenly corrupt and totally unscrupulous".

The spokesman said the Bofors scandal had been "hatched by a frustrated opposition" and had been kept alive with an eye on the parliamentary elections, scheduled on November 22, 24 and 26.

Mr. Gandhi, 45, has denied his family's involvement in the Bofors scandal, but has repeatedly contradicted himself under the weight of media exposures of the controversy.

Government Restatees 'Surprise' at Fiji Expulsion

BK0111170989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1636 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 1 (AFP)—India Wednesday [1 November] again expressed surprise at the expulsion of its ambassador to Fiji and rejected the charge that it was interfering in the island nation's internal affairs.

The Ministry of External Affairs in a new statement said Ambassador T. Srinivasan, who had arrived in Delhi before his expulsion deadline, had been expelled on the charge of "apparent interference".

The statement said a recent speech by Mr. Srinivasan criticizing the burning of Indian temples and a mosque, which was objected to by Suva, had "merely emphasised the need for restoring inter-racial harmony" in Fiji.

India had always been opposed to racial discrimination wherever it was practised, the statement said. "This cannot be deemed to constitute interference in the internal affairs of any country. India desires peace and progress for all citizens of Fiji, irrespective of race or creed," it added.

New Delhi said Tuesday it had named V.B. Soni, who arrived in Suva recently, to head the Indian mission as charge d'affaires, and described Fiji's decision to downgrade the embassy to consular level as "ex post facto" as the ambassador had already been recalled.

India, whose nationals form roughly half of the Fijian population, does not recognise the government in Suva formed after the 1987 military coup.

Fiji's Allegation Rejected

BK0211093789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] India has rejected as totally baseless an allegation by Fijian authorities that the Indian ambassador in Suva, Mr T.P. Srinivasan, was interfering in the internal affairs of that country. In a statement, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi that Mr Srinivasan was merely emphasizing the need to restore inter-racial harmony in the Pacific island nation. It should not be construed as an interference in the internal affairs of any country. Expressing surprise at Fiji's allegation, the spokesman said principled opposition to racial discrimination wherever it occurs has been a constant feature of India's foreign policy. Mr Srinivasan, who had already completed his tenure in Fiji, is to take up his new assignment soon.

'Press Statement' on Fiji Issued

BK0211095489 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0900 GMT 2 Nov 89

["Press Statement on Fiji Issued on 1.11.89"—ISI headline]

[Text] The Fiji authorities have written to our ambassador in Fiji Shri T.P. Srinivasan, indicating their "displeasure" with his recent statements and actions and alleging "apparent interference" of the Indian Government in Fiji's affairs. These pertain mainly to the ambassador's effort to calm the feelings of the people of Indian origin of that country, after some misguided Fijians had recently burnt a Sikh gurudwara [temple], a Muslim mosque, and two Hindu temples there.

2. [number as received] The Government of India are surprised by what the Fijian regime has done. The government reject these charges as totally baseless. Ambassador Srinivasan was trying merely to emphasise the need for measures for restoring inter-racial harmony in Fiji and showing respect for all religions. Principled opposition to racial discrimination, wherever it occurs has been a constant feature of India's foreign policy. This cannot be deemed to constitute interference in the internal affairs of any country. India desires peace and progress for all citizens of Fiji, irrespective of race or creed. But India cannot close its eyes to the absolute

need of maintaining its full support for the human and political rights of all the people of Fiji including of course those who have long maintained close and warm ties with India. And amongst these, we count many of Fijian origin whom we have learnt to admire. 3. The communication received from the Fijian authorities also conveys their "decision" that the ambassador should leave Fiji by November 3, and their view that India's future representation in Fiji should be at a lower level. This statement is not easy to understand, as the Government of India had already announced its decision to transfer Ambassador Srinivasan back to headquarters, after completion of his normal term of duty in Fiji. The Government of India had also announced that Sri V.B. Soni, who had recently arrived there, will be in charge of the mission as charge d'affaires, once Shri Srinivasan departs.

Court Stays Haryana Government Order on Districts

BK0111171389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed various notifications issued by the Haryana government creating four new districts of Kaithal, Yamuna, Nagar, Pantipat, and Riwari in the state. The order was handed down in Chandigarh yesterday by Mr Justice S.S. Sodhi and Mr Justice A.L. Bahri, who constituted the bench.

Admitting the petition filed by the president of the district bar association of Kurukshetra, the judges directed that a full bench should be constituted and the petition listed before it within a fortnight for regular hearing.

'At Least' 2 Killed, 24 Injured in Delhi Blast

BK0211090489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] At least 2 persons were killed and 24 injured in a blast in Shakur Basti area of northwest Delhi early this morning. According to the police, the blast occurred in a house in J.J. Colony. The cause of the blast is not immediately known. Most of the injured have been admitted to the (Deen Dayal Appaji) hospital.

Iran

Khamene'i Speech Marking Capture of U.S Embassy

LD0111154689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to students, teachers, and educators at Tehran University on 1 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Memories of the period of uprising and the revolution are often meaningful events providing us with charts [khatt] which show the path, direction, and movement of the uprising and the revolution to us as well as to posterity. That explains why the memory of some events of the period of uprising and revolution, as you see, are more lasting, colorful, attractive, and sweeter to our tastes. The reason is that some memories are more telling with regard to providing the overall line of the Islamic uprising and the victorious Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

The memory of 4 November is one such memory. I would like to go deeply into Islamic and Koranic thought here and make the slogan correspond with the basis of its thought so that with due attention to such basis, we may appreciate the value of the slogan better. We may, therefore, safeguard the direction of the revolution carefully, because one issue to which you, specifically the youth, must pay attention is the direction chosen by the revolution, the straight path of the revolution. This must be preserved; it must be carefully nurtured because if we do so, then no danger can thraten us and nothing can threaten the revolution.

As all of you know, and as it was mentioned, there are three memories pertaining to 4 November, and all three concern the United States. Two of these relate to the blows which the United States dealt against us, while one concerns the blow our nation dealt to the United States. The memory of the banishment of his eminence the imam [Khomeyni], may his soul be admitted to God's paradise, is the first memory related to that day because the issue was that of capitulation [term borrowed from French in Persian meaning extraterritorial judicial rights for foreign governments in another country]. It means judicial sovereignty of the U.S. Government, under the shadow of the U.S. surrogate government which was being established in Iran [referring to 1963 Majlis bill which gave U.S. military personnel in Iran diplomatic immunity]. It is that, as I shall explain, which is essentially the meaning, imperative, and characteristic of arrogance. [passage omitted]

The second memory relates to the martyred students, the students who came into the streets. U.S. mercenaries martyred these dear ones. We definitely hold the United States responsible for the crimes of the shah and his establishment. These students came into the streets to continue the same uprising which 15 or 14 years earlier they [shah's regime] had believed they had destroyed through the banishment of the imam. It had gained strength, however, from all parts of society and included men and women, old and young. That was the second blow which the Americans dealt to us, the Iranian nation on 4 November 1978.

The third event is the natural outcome of the same current; that is, initially the uprising was so isolated that it was possible for the regime to kidnap its leader from his home and send him into exile. Then it acquired so much coverage and quality after 13 to 14 years that it brought out into the streets the youth and the students. Shortly, the uprising, the revolution, was victorious,

leading to the establishment of a regime on the basis of the revolution. From that point on it is the turn of the beaten children and soldiers of the same revolution to retaliate. This is only a natural reaction. Those who regarded the anger of the children of the revolution at the United States and the attack of the revolution against the United States as something strange were making a mistake. These were the most natural events which could have happened in our country.

The reaction of the revolutionaries against the United States—which was responsible for all the crimes committed during the two or three decades prior to the revolution—is the natural reaction of a revolutionary nation showing its hatred toward the arrogant and the bullies in any way it could.

Thus, the third event took place and the tables were turned; that is, our youth, those Muslim students following the imam's line—which was the explicit name they chose—attacked the U.S. Embassy, bringing about that astonishing historical event.

The point was not that of an embassy and the personnel of an embassy: these issues were not at stake. The point was that a huge contemporary empire based on wealth, power, and deception, which humiliates all nations that confront its arrogant power—the empire which humiliates leaders of the nations, governments, and at will removes them—was itself humiliated. The basic point was that such an empire was suddenly itself humiliated.

This showed the world that the presence of bullies is not absolute, forever. The will of the arrogant powers does not necessarily dominant the world's spirit. This was an lie they tried to implant in people's minds, whereas in reality, they were belittled, and the dust of that humiliation has not yet been wiped from the face of arrogant U.S. leaders and it will not be wiped away in the future either. These are three events, all of which are meaningful. The first incident, as pointed out, is very meaningful, as well as the second incident—particularly in comparison with the first incident.

What I wish to convey to you involves of two issues. First, a brief issue: From the outset of the victory of the revolution it became a habit for a group of individuals—who were not close to the main stages of the revolution nor had grasped the real spirit of the revolution—to repeat, say, or write that if we had not confronted the United States from the beginning of the revolution, then all those pressures and troubles would not have been brought upon the revolution and the country by the United States. During these last few years, some people have repeatedly stated that opinion. It is possible the hands of U.S. and Western propaganda organs were behind these people. This, however, does not concern me at the moment. What is important is that the opinion in itself is wrong and simple-minded, apart from being biased. The issue is not whether the Iranian nation had the right to object to the United States or not; and, if the nation had or did not have the right, was it logical to protest against the United States. The issue is not that at all. The issue concerns the confrontation of global arrogance against revolutions, in particular against a revolution with an Islamic nature and spirit. The issue should be posed in a different way. The issue is that a revolution with Islamic ideology cannot possibly consider itself immune from the aggression of the United States and other similar powers. Global arrogance cannot sit on its Pharaonic throne of its empire of money and coercion and remain indifferent to the fact that thoughts and ideas are growing among nations which are fundamentally based on toppling the reign of the arrogant powers. It is obvious that they will not remain indifferent. It is obvious that global arrogance, through its intelligence organs and its special ideologues, discerns what idea, what nation, and even what individual is threatening it most. Arrogance will use all its might to nullify such a threat. They will even assassinate individuals, while putting nations under dastardly pressures even before the nations' movements become victorious, whenever they feel threatened. Then, a revolution flourished and triumphed, formed a government and a nation and a slogan, despite the presence of arrogance. Do you think that arrogance will remain silent and indifferent in the face of such a revolution, nation, and government? [passage omitted] What is arrogance? This is the issue to which our youth ought to pay attention. Why are we against a certain government or regime? Is it right that someone should think that our positions vis-a-vis world arrogant powers are seasonal and tactical positions? No! Such thoughts are wrong. The interpretation and the meaning of arrogance are Koranic. It is not something which was brought in an artificial manner into the culture of our revolution. The nature of arrogance implies that we must have constant confrontations against it, not seasonal or tactical ones. This is the basis of the revolution, and so far as there is the revolution, such a situation will persist. [passage omitted]

Today, unfortunately, the atmosphere of mankind's livelihood is overshadowed by the acts of arrogants the world over, led of course by the United States. That a government should grant itself the right to preserve its interests on the other side of the world—even if its interests are in contradiction to those of the regional governments—is indeed the essence of arrogance. That a government should grant itself the right to shamelessly and clearly say it will topple a government opposed to it is indeed the essence of arrogance. This is something that the United States says in particular about many Latin American governments, as well as other governments in other parts of the world. They say we must topple this or that government. When asked why, they have no answer, apart from saying their interests are endangered, or a certain government does not meet U.S. interests. If you look at today's world political climate, you will witness many cases such as that. [passage omitted]

Today you witness Americans coolly speaking about the massacre of thousands of people in Hiroshima, saying that this was in U.S. interests and that it was necessary;

this is indeed the essence of arrogance. They further speak coolly of the horrific crimes they have committed, such as when they downed a passenger plane. In the face of subsequent protests, they merely stated that the topic is finished, let us not speak of it. For them murder and crime is a natural and routine matter, whatever their interests dictate. However, when one of their citizens has been hurt in some part of the world due to a wrong-doing of his own will, then arrogance spreads a hue and cry all over the world. They consider a value for themselves which they never give to the other members of humanity. This is the essence of arrogance. This is what exists in today's system of world hegemony. We have declared to the world that the Islamic revolution is against the hegemonic system.

The regime of arrogance is precisely this; it is a situation in which a number of governments and powers use force while nations, groups, and governments surrender to such force. Both are parties to the regime of dominance. We rejected the regime of dominance; we reject it and campaign against it. We believe that both parties [those using force and those accepting it] are at fault, not only the one using force is at fault, but also the one accepting it. That is the meaning of arrogance.

If today you glance at the totality of the Western regime you will see symptoms of dominance and arrogance. Of course, nobody, no government in the world shows arrogance and domination so brutally and blatantly as the U.S. does. Yet it is not solely peculiar to the U.S. Arrogance and dominance show their characteristics in all the Western regimes and those who are subject to them—the reactionary, dependent regimes and those who are powers in their own right even though the world does not recognize them as superpower and great powers. [passage omitted]

The pressure which is being applied to the Lebanese nation to impose a sectarian regime on it and to give power to a minority over the majority—which is against all claims to democracy—is one of the symptoms of arrogance by those who claim to be democratic. It is one of the characteristics of arrogance.

The propaganda which you see is directed against the Muslim struggling groups throughout the world—the propaganda which supports arrogance and describes struggling human beings trying to improve their lives as terrorists—is also one of the characteristics of arrogance. [passage omitted]

That is the issue; the issue of arrogance is a Koranic issue. We are opposed to all these symptoms of arrogance. The struggle of the Iranian nation is not a kind of sloganeering, emotional, seasonal, and tactical struggle; rather, it is a Koranic struggle, a deep struggle having ideological roots. We encounter all characteristics of arrogance in the world. Why do we have more encounters with the U.S. than with other governments and arrogant people in the world? The reason is that the United States is more arrogant than all others. [passage omitted]

Of course, analysts, who are mostly dependent on political circles that have an axe to grind, say that in Iran there are two wings, one saying this and the other saying something different and that they are paving the way to come to terms with so and so. These are the analyses of our enemies; these are analyses which have no basis in reality.

Anybody in Iran who believes in the Islamic revolution, in Islam, and in the Islamic pillars of our revolution will continue to believe in the unending struggle against the standard bearers of the arrogant powers led today by the United States. [crowd chants "Death to America" and other slogans]

Of course, the loudspeaker of propaganda is in the hands of our enemies and they are very familiar with propaganda methods. They have spent a lot of money on learning how to conduct propaganda. They can accuse a nation of being aggressive, savage, lacking in customs and manners, and adventurist, just because that nation has insisted on its rights, its human rights, and because it has objected to the violators [mota'arezan] and trangressors of human rights, just as they have done these sorts of things against our nation. We, who are sitting here, should not come under the influence of this propaganda. Why should anyone inside revolutionary and Islamic Iran imagine that cries and angry shouts against the United States is an aggressive and adventurist deed. This is their propaganda.

What adventurism? Adventurism is committed by the chief who enters the space of your house—not you, who drive him out of the house or complain against him or shout at him or explain your position as victims [mazlumiyat] in this or that place. Aggression is committed by that person for whom the lives of hundreds and thousands of revolutionary human beings from any country—including persons from our own country and nation—have no value at all. Neither we, who shout against the aggressive and savage methods of enemies and of these kinds of powers, nor those wretched ones, who embark on suicidal actions under the pressure of U.S. forces and U.S. political and military mercenaries to show that they exist and show their presence and their grudge in Lebanon and places like Lebanon... [sentence imcomplete as heard] What aggression? Yes, world propaganda presents this as aggression and adventurism and lack of etiquette, whereas their own behavior is not seen in this light. We should pay attention.

Well, this was one topic. Now I would like to tell you students and pupils something else. You young people are the fundamental basis of the revolution—for the future generation and later eras. Today too, you have a lot of impact on the revolution because you are young; today too, on the political front, on the military front, on the reconstruction front, and anywhere you are present,

you will be active elements of the revolution. Tomorrow you will be the foundation of the revolution; today you are the active elements and tomorrow you are the foundations of the revolution.

Pay attention and make sure that you understand precisely what the revolution was about, its roots, its intellectual and rational foundations. The younger generation of the Iranian nation—now that 10 or 11 years have passed since those bloody days—does not have the right to forget those days and the black days preceding them. The younger generation should act as the vanguard in the great movement of the Iranian nation, especially the young generation of pupils. Complacency and indifference is impermissible for the younger generation. That young person who does not see the events taking place in his country and the fate of his country and the aggressions that are organized in the world against his country and who does not object and become angry at this; that young person does not deserve to call himself a young citizen of a revolutionary nation.

The young spirit is that vibrant spirit which has come to the help of nations and countries in times of difficulties—and which has rescued generations. The young person of today's generation has had the luck not to be present during eras such as the black repressive and oppressive eras of the Reza Khans and Mohammad Reza Shahs. Those young persons who were present during those days and sustained such difficulties must be always remembered by the youth of today. Of course, this was not specific to our nation; in other nations too, their youth made a great deal of self-sacrifices during the period of repression by other countries and domination by others. Today you are dutybound to uphold the revolution and stand steadfast by it with the depth of your being and with all your existence; to grasp and profoundly understand the meaning of the revolution and its ideological foundations. Internalize this and preserve it within yourself for the moment when this nation will need it, and this will come about in two scenarios: one of these will be when the revolution is threatened—be it from economic, military, or political standpoints—when you must put to work those reserves to defend your country and your revolution—in whatever manner that time and circumstances require.

The second arena is the reconstruction arena—the best reconstructors are revolutionary reconstructors; the best providers of the world conducive to revolution are those who are born out of revolution and revolution has taken root in their spirit. You young people should make yourself ready for those two arenas. As a person who recognizes and understands the currents—world currents, behind-the-screen currents, plots of the enemy and those who has had dealings with them from the start of the revolution, I tell you—dear young people—the enemy invests a lot in you—you should be alert. They make some people indifferent, others despondent and disheartened; and despondancy is the greatest calamity of young people. Unfortunately, the young should know that despondency finds its way more quickly into the morals of a young person, just like hope does. You should become immune against this despondency which the enemy wants to inject in the young and which it guides them toward. Some, by dragging them into corruption—dragging a young person who is the symbol of piety and purity, to do corrupt deeds and impure deeds—in whatever form, it does not make any difference. They injected the wrong political ideologies and actions into another lot—a group of young people appeared in this country at the start of the revolution who took up arms and fought with the government against which the East and West were campaigning; campaigning against that revolutionary government. They placed incorrect political thoughts in the minds of those wretched, poor young—in this same university of Tehran.

In Tehran University itself, the students took up arms in 1979-80 built barracades in the university campus, and fired at the revolutionary government and nation. By what criteria and yardstick is such a thing comprehensible? The student who must bear his breast in the face of enemies of the revolution to safeguard it, himself became a damaging factor to this revolution. This is unbelievable, but it did happen. Of course, the revolution is a turbulent wave that will not tolerate anything which opposes it. The revolution's current carried those students and many people who were more significant than they. Some were saved because they found a way to harmonize themselves with the course of the revolution, while some others sank and were destroyed, both physically and mentally, the latter of course being the more dangerous one. Therefore, the introduction of thoughts in the minds of the youth is another act in which the enemy is engaged; that is, the introduction of incorrect political thoughts. You must know today that any thought which makes the youth feel they are separate from the body of the revolution's officials and pioneers and the country's managers is of the same type as introduced political thoughts. You must pay attention.

Today, the government and the nation, hand in hand and alongside one another, must strive to break and destroy all the ploys of arrogance and hegemony. This is a very important and sensitive stage, and the mode of thought which should guide you is indeed the Islamic mode of thought. In universities a lot of attention should be paid to Islamic deeds and thoughts. I hope that God Almighty grants you success. [passage omitted]

Jannati Terms Anti-U.S. Struggle 1st Priority

LD0111191789 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA—A prominent alim said today that the future course of the Islamic revolution and the Republic depends on the Iranian people's decisive confrontation of the U.S.

"As long as the Islamic revolution exists U.S. hostility will not cease, and as long our enemy is America, the

struggle against it tops all our programmes," Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati told reporters.

Jannati, the secretary of the Coordinatory Council of the Islamic Propagation Organization made the remarks on the threshold of Aban 13 (Nov. 4), which marks the 10th anniversary of the busting of the U.S. den of espionage in Tehran by Muslim students following the late Imam Khomeyni's path.

The 4th of November also recalls the exile to Turkey of the founder of the Islamic Republic by the shah's regime in 1963, and massacre of students by royal guards at Tehran University campus in 1978. Jannati said, "Our people have recognized the significance of this day and will always keep it alive."

He termed the capture of the U.S. spy den a "coup de grace" to American presence in Iran, and said the event greatly enhanced people's confidence.

"It also served to blow up America's superpower myth, and encouraged other nations to rise up against it," added Jannati.

He made it clear "Our people will never make the least compromise with the U.S. but on the contrary by strengthening their anti-arrogance spirit will frustrate it for ever."

Meanwhile, the press today gave wide coverage to the opinion of the people and officials on the occasion, which reflected the deep hatred among Iranians of U.S. policies.

Interviewed by the daily "KEYHAN" Rasul Montajabnia, a Majlis deputy from Shiraz, said that further disclosure of the crimes of the "arch satan" should be among programs for November 4.

Aptly dubbed "The Great Satan" by the late Imam Khomeyni, the U.S. tops Iran's list of terrorist states.

Shirvan MP [member of parliament] Hoseyn Herati, told the daily that the gossip in world circles that "Death to the U.S." slogan was on the wane in Iran is just an imagination, and shows that global arrogance is still not familiar with the principles of the Islamic Revolution.

Semnan representative Reza Akrami also thought on similar lines, and said, "We should show the U.S. that the days it played the world's gendarme have long passed."

U.S. 'Spies' To Give News Conference 4 Nov

LD0211094289 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA—A group of recently captured U.S. spies will make confessions before foreign and domestic reporters next Saturday [4 November], announced the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance today.

The interview will be held at the U.S. den of spies as of 10:00 hours local time, and is part of events marking the 10th anniversary of the fall of the centre of deceit (Nov. 4), as the former U.S. Embassy is popularly referred to in Iran.

The day, has been declared "national day of resistance against global arrogance," and according to a press release, all reporters and photographers have been asked to contact the ministry on Thursday between 10:00 to 16:00 hours for their special entrance cards.

Commentary on 'Irresponsible' Terrorist Bill

LD0111234889 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Station political commentary]

[Text] Last Sunday the Islamic Consultative Assembly approved the generalities of a legal bill under which the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been authorized to safeguard the lives of the Iranian nationals throughout the world against the U.S. Government's terrorist acts. This bill was approved by the Iranian Parliament in the wake of an irresponsible decision by the U.S. Congress according to which the U.S. President contrary to international laws has been authorized to arrest in any country individuals of any nationality who are convicted by U.S. judicial forums.

The test of the Islamic Consultative Assembly's legal bill, which has been approved under the title of In Justification of the Encounter with the U.S. Government's Terroristic Acts, is as follows: In order to retaliate against the U.S. nationals who have been convicted by Iran's judicial forums.

It has been also been stipulated in the legal bill that U.S. nationals, in the event that they commit any acts against the Islamic Republic of Iran's interests and nationals, shall be tried in Iranian courts on the basis of Islamic justice. Also it has been stressed in the note to this legal bill which is scheduled to be finally approved within the next couple of weeks: This law shall remain in force to the time the U.S. President enjoys the right to carry out such irresponsible measures.

In view of the note to the Islamic Consultative Assembly's legal bill, informed political observers believe that the bill is considered solely as a response to the U.S. Government's selfish measures, for it has been said that the bill will remain in force subject to the continuation of the illegal acts of the U.S. Government. From the viewpoint of these observers, although the move of Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly is considered as an act directed at further straining the Iran-U.S. ties, the main offender is the U.S. Administration which has permitted itself to violate international laws. Meanwhile, the comments of the U.S. President, George Bush, which were made last Monday, are another step preventing the improvement of Iran's ties with America. While addressing the U.S. Congress, George Bush said: It is

necessary that the national emergency measures which were initially adopted against Iran in 1979 remain in effect. Bush pointed out: Although the international tribunal which has been formed in order to settle the claims of U.S. nationals against Iran and those of Iranian nationals against America continues to perform its functions, commercial and diplomatic ties between the United States and Iran have not been normalized.

The purport of George Bush's adoption of national emergency measures is the continuation of the policy in which the Islamic Republic of Iran is depicted as the so-called terrorist. Due to this reason, it appears very obvious that the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government, in view of this insulting attitude, further delay the issue of the resumption of ties with the American Government. Even though some analysis [as heard] do not consider the comments of George Bush and the U.S. Government's recent posturings against Iran to be unrelated to the upcoming anniversary of the event of 4 November—that is the seizure of the U.S. den of espionage—they believe that these will have a considerable effect on further straining the Iran-U.S. ties. The reason is that the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials have consistently referred to the expression of good faith by the U.S. Government as the basic condition for the resumption of ties with Washington, and it is obvious that there is just no sign of good faith in the recent move of the U.S. Congress and the comments of George Bush.

Editorial on International 'Law of Jungle'

LD0211074289 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—The Persian daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" said in an editorial Thursday that if the modern world allows a return to the law of the jungle then the law gives equal rights to the community of world nations.

It said if the U.S. has the right to kidnap Iranians outside of the U.S. territories and carry them to the United States for trial then the universal law of the jungle entitles Iran to retaliatory acts on the U.S. citizens abroad.

The editorial said the Iranian Majlis has passed a counter-act in response to the decision of the U.S. Congress which means that perhaps at some future time the commander of the U.S. Vincennes who was responsible for the shooting down of an Iranian airliner on the Strait of Hormuz on July 3, 1988 will be brought to Iran for trial.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said the Islamic Republic of Iran "meets and will meet political ruffians and oppressive thugs of the world firmly, but logically," adding "Washington should accept the inviolable principle that it will not accomplish anything by bullying others and by indulging in acts of threat and criminal preparations."

The daily continued: "This (the decision of the U.S. Congress) is of the same character as the law of the jungle which Washington is trying to wrap in new words and phrases as its own policies in the modern world. This policy is clearly against internatinal laws and the sovereignty of world nations."

"The firm decision of the Majlis," said the editorial, "is just another reminder to the United States that the Islamic system is prepared to cope with any threat or terrorist operation by the United States and that it has the necessary leverages to exploit so that those who still cherish hopes for blackmailing others and demonstrating their supremacy over them by acts of tough ruffianism will repent their acts."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Interviews Velayati

NC0111150089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Oct 89 p 12

[Text] Today is the 462d day since the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted UN Security Council Resolution 598, and Article 1 of this resolution has still not been implemented, despite the fact that most of the governments of the world have expressed support for this resolution. The Iraqi regime, too, following its repeated defeats, claimed for 6 years that it wanted peace, and it also declared its agreement with the resolution when it was first issued. But now this very regime has for 462 days been resorting to unjustified obstructionism and is thus doing its best to ensure that the implementation of the resolution—which it supported—remains in an impasse. Until now it has raised three issues in justification of its obstructionism: 1) the dredging of the Arvand River; 2) direct talks; and 3) the exchange of prisoners of war outside the framework of the resolution.

During the UN General Assembly session, Foreign Minister Dr Velayati held talks with the UN secretary general and officials of various countries. Moreover, Eliasson, the secretary general's representative in the peace talks, is to hold meetings in the near future in Iran and Iraq. Therefore, we decided to interview Dr Velayati about the the future of the peace talks, the situation of the prisoners of war, and the Iraqi regime's obstruction of the UN secretary general's new efforts. The interview follows:

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In view of the fact that it has been some time since the fourth round of the peace talks, what substantive progress concerning the implementation of the resolution has been achieved so far?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. We have had no substantive progress regarding the implementation of Resolution 598 since then, and if the conditions remain unchanged, it is not clear whether we will be able to achieve any tangible progress in the near future either.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What problem specifically has led to an impasse in the talks?

[Velayati] If we do not go so far as to say that we are an in impasse, we can say that we are facing a stalemate. And the main reason for this stalemate is Iraq's obstructionism. The Iraqis have shown, by their deeds, that they are not faithful to Resolution 598 and that they have no intention of implementing this resolution. If they had intended to implement it they would certainly be acting differently.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] It appears that Iraq is interested in continuing the situation of neither war nor peace. If so, what objective is Iraq pursuing? Will this situation continue for years, or will it change?

[Velayati] We consider it probable that Iraq is actually using the neither war nor peace situation in order to stabilize conditions inside Iraq. It may be using this as a weapon and as a type of extortion where other Arab countries are concerned. Probably their interests dictate that the area remain in some tension so that they can actually exploit this situation both politically and economically.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] How does the Iraqi regime justify its obstructionisms to the Iraqi people?

[Velayati] The Iraqi people are under the regime's pressure. The people do anything that the regime wishes. Usually such regimes do not need to justify their acts to the people. But public opinion cannot always be absolutely denied. Probably the regime's acts are aimed more at justifying their initiation of the war rather than at the current situation. This is because they do not have any answers to give about a war which they started and the only outcome of which was destruction and death for the Iraqi people. Therefore, they are trying to justify the initiation of the war. But before answering questions arising from the current situation, they should account for why the war was started.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What is the position of international forums on the implementation of the international resolution?

[Velayati] Some of the countries that are influential in international forums have vested interests in the failure of the talks. They want to use Resolution 598 as a weapon to promote their political objectives as far as bilateral relations with regional countries and with the countries involved in the peace talks are concerned.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What overtures have been made by the UN secretary general and the Security Council?

[Velayati] The secretary general wants progress to be achieved in the implementation of the resolution but he cannot do this alone. In other words, he needs the Security Council's persistent and serious support. Some of the Security Council members actually want something else. These are the same countries that are seeking to preserve and to reap benefits from their bilateral relations with the countries involved and with the region as a whole. Therefore, we do not see the seriousness that we expected to see among the permanent members of the Security Council.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Resolution 598 is one of the rare cases of a resolution on the implementation of which all countries agree. However, despite this, do you not feel that the efforts on an international level for the implementation of this resolution are not serious? We see that this applies to the Nonaligned Movement which, as a rule, should be an active force supporting the implementation of the resolution. What is the reason for this behavior by this movement in your opinion, and have talks been held in order to activate the stand of the movement?

[Velayati] Some of the movement's members have displayed a wish to become involved to some extent in the implementation of the resolution, and to help toward its implementation. We, too, on for our part, welcomed them on the condition that they do not overshadow the efforts of the UN secretary general, or, in other words, on the condition that these efforts do not move in the opposite direction from or even parallel with Resolution 598. There is a specific path, and that is that the resolution be implemented. Anyone wanting to assist should help toward the implementation of this resolution, and not propound new plans which will only add to existing problems. They discussed these points and made some proposals. We too agreed they should start their activities on the basis of what we said and should help the secretary general in implementing the resolution.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] In your remarks you stated that rather than thinking about how precisely the resolution should be implemented, some of the Security Council members are supporting the current situation because they feel that their joint interests with both of the countries involved and with regional countries are more important. Thus, if this resolution is not implemented then these Security Council members will be held responsible by other countries and by the region. The question is: Why have they adopted this method?

[Velayati] If the problems faced by the two belligerent parties are solved, interventions and the expressions of views will not be necessary any more, or there will no longer be any justification for such acts. Anyway, it is only in a condition of partial tension that the big powers can impose their domination on countries that cannot tolerate a tense situation and portray themselves as wanting to help. And it is under such conditions that the possibility of imposing their diktat increases.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Various assessments of the Iraqi regime's obstructionism have been made in reports appearing in the mass media. Some think that we want to know why Iraq has occupied our territory. Others propound the issue of the Arvand River, some think that the main problem is Iraq's insistence on direct talks, while others think that the main problem is the exchange of prisoners of war outside the framework of the resolution.

When you speak of Iraq's obstructionism, of what are you specifically thinking? Do you have only one of these points or all of them in mind?

[Velayati] Iraq is pursuing objectives with its obstructionism, and it may not be expressing what its main objectives are. If we want to sum up Iraq's objectives from this obstructionism "in one sentence," we should say: the gaining of concessions from the opposite side. You may ask what kind of concessions? I think that Iraq is after political concessions in order to disseminate propaganda both inside Iraq and in the region. They are after more rights than those given to them in the 1975 agreement on the Arvand River. It does not make any difference for them if they have to gain more rights than this through unjust methods. If the issue is one of using the entire Arvand River for navigation purposes, both countries can—on the basis of the said agreement—use the entire breadth of the river for navigation purposes. The Iraqis' argument is over the sovereignty of the river and their illegal demands over the Arvand River and that for the sake of using this issue for domestic consumption by the Iraqi regime. From the very first day, they started the war on this pretext. When we were weak, they said that the Algiers agreement was ratified, and now that we are strong, they say that this pact should be abrogated. But the events of the past 8 years showed that the Iraqis were wrong in the assessment of their alleged strength because almost 1 year after the onset of the war all the Iranian territories that were occupied by the Iraqis were liberated by the combatants of Islam, and even parts of Iraqi territory were occupied. The outcome of the Iraqis' acts was that they attacked Iran on the basis of wrong assessments and then had to withdraw after suffering heavy losses. Finally, a cease-fire was established in the region after 8 years. Looking back now, the Iraqi people see that they have lost thousands of their youth and that a great deal of Iraq's wealth and potential were wasted. And all this stemmed from the Iraqi regime's wrong assessments. In a bid to justify its past miscalculation, this regime is committing another mistake in the peace talks.

The Iraqis now want to gain in the peace talks what they were unable to gain in the war. And this is a mistake that they are repeating. This is the reason behind the Iraqis' perplexity and distress in the talks and this is why the talks have led to a stalemate. They do not say what their intention is, and the Iraqis do not dare to state what the main motive behind their policy is, hence their contradictions when trying to justify their stand.

During the 14 months since the onset of the Iran-Iraq talks, during each session they have stated something different from what they stated in the previous session. Once they propounded the issue of withdrawal, another time they propounded the issue of dredging Arvand Rud and of freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, and another time the issue of the prisoners of war. During the recent round of talks they said that the prisoners of war should be released on the basis of Article 118 of the Geneva Convention because on the basis of this article, the exchange should take place after the hostilities between the two countries have ended.

We asked them: How is it that during the past session you said that the cease-fire is not yet complete but that now you are saying that the hostilities have ended and that ending hostilities is the next phase after a cease-fire? How is it that when the issue of the Arvand River was being discussed, you said that the cease-fire is not yet complete but that now you are propounding the prisoner of war issue and saying that the hostilities have ended? You have to make a choice between one of these two. Either you have to accept that the cease-fire is complete and that the conflict has not ended—therefore, the prisoners of war cannot be exchanged—or that the cease-fire is complete and that the conflict is over too—in which case you have to withdraw immediately.

We think that since the Iraqis cannot state their main motive in creating a stalemate in the talks, they make contradictory remarks.

The other point that shows that the Iraqis do not want the talks to reach a conclusion and that they are taking steps toward this is their approach to the UN secretary general's plan for accelerating the implementation of the resolution. It has been more than 1 year now since this plan was proposed, and the Iraqis have not yet accepted it.

Recently, the secretary general propounded a timetable for a simultaneous withdrawal and exchange of prisoners of war—the one within 15 days and the other within 90 days. We accepted both the proposal and the timetable. But the Iraqis have not accepted either of these. If the Iraqis want peace, then they should withdraw. If they want the release of prisoners of war, then they should accept the secretary general's 4-point plan. And if they want calm in the region, they should stop looking for pretexts.

We announce that if today the Iraqis accept the secretary general's 4-point plan, on the very next day we will start to exchange prisoners of war next to the implementation of the rest of the articles. If Iraq had accepted this plan, all the prisoners of war would have been free by now. In order to prove our goodwill, we have unilaterally released Iraqi prisoners of war many times now. But Iraq has not reciprocated. We have allowed more than 50,000 Iraqi prisoners of war to register in Iran, while the Iraqis have not allowed more than 19,000 Iranian prisoners of war to register in Iraq. We want the Red Cross to act and not to allow Iraq to impose what it wants on this organization.

Tariq 'Aziz said in Geneva that he had a list of about 25,000 Iranian prisoners of war and that he was willing to hand this list over to the Red Cross under certain conditions. Therefore, these 25,000 prisoners of war plus the 19,000 who have been registered in Iraq show that the Iraqis are admitting to the existence of a total of 44,000 Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq. This is at a time

when we have allowed—and the Iraqis have admitted this—more than 50,000 Iraqi prisoners of war to register in Iran.

As for the wounded prisoners of war, in the fall of 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988] we and the Iraqis signed a memorandum of understanding with the head of the Red Cross under which the wounded and disabled prisoners of war would be released. We signed the memorandum, but the Iraqis started their obstructionism and stopped exchanging wounded and disabled prisoners of war. We informed the Red Cross of this but unfortunately, no serious call was sent by this organization to Iraq to implement the contents of this memorandum.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] You said that if Iraq accepts the 4-point plan, we will then release the prisoners of war the next day while observing the rest of the plan's points. Is this release in view of the order in which the articles of Resolution 598 are listed?

[Velayati] Article 598 is the theoretical part of the issue. When it reaches the stage of implementation, it should be implemented on the basis of the secretary general's 4-point plan. Actually, the secretary general's 4-point plan is like a code for implementing Resolution 598.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Mr Eliasson is expected to visit the area soon. Is his agenda known?

[Velayati] We are still not aware of the details of what he wants to do, but the method he will use is clear. He is to shuttle between Tehran and Baghdad. But details of the way he will work for the resolution are not yet clear to us.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The Islamic Republic of Iran has clarified that it will not tolerate the latent and continued occupation of Iranian territory. It has even been said that if necessary we will resort to war to liberate our occupied areas. What is your opinion about this?

[Velayati] We will not give up even one inch of our land. The Islamic Republic's patience has its limits. We showed in the past that we are not prepared to compromise or to retreat when it comes to our national interests. Iraq has to withdraw from Iranian territory on the basis of Resolution 598. If the international forums, and especially the United Nations, are unable to force Iraq to do this, then we will undoubtedly vindicate our legal rights.

Support for Lebanese, Palestinian Groups Defended

PM0111111589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Oct 89 p 18

[Editorial by J. Keshavarz: "Iran, the Central Capital of the Islamic Community"]

[Text] Western and Arab reactionary media have considered as a sign of Iranian intervention in Lebanese affairs the meeting in Tehran of nationalist and Islamic Lebanese-Palestinian groups which was held at the same time as the summit in al-Ta'if. They have said that the Tehran meeting was an effort to bring a foreign and non-Arab party into the issue of finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis. They called this meeting a summit of "terrorist groups." There are several points worth mentioning with regard to the position taken by the Arab and Western media:

1. The question of Lebanon and Palestine is, in the words of our President Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, one of our ideals. We do not consider the interests of the Lebanese people or the Palestinian people separate from our own. This is a nationalist, Islamic, and revolutionary stance toward which our people, our revolution, and Islam cannot remain indifferent, involving the oppression of another group of people. The prophet himself said: One who hears a Muslim's cries for help and does not act is not a Muslim himself.

2. Political Maronites have always served as a base for the strengthening and safeguarding of Western interests and influence in Lebanon. This is proved true, bearing in mind the vast powers given by the Lebanese Constitution to the Maronite president of that country, and keeping in mind the fact that the West and the Vatican have always served as a focal point for the Maronites. By organizing the Lebanese Constitution in accordance with ethnic and religious sects, the West has continued its interference in Lebanon's affairs in order to safeguard its own interests. Now that its interests have been threatened because of a growth in Islamic and revolutionary thought, the West is trying at least to amend some parts of the constitution in order to still some of the opposition.

3. In addition to putting in power a regime that would safeguard Western interests in Lebanon, the West also secured a military presence in the area as well. The movement of Western fleets and the presence of foreign marines in Lebanon are clear proof of this fact. One must now ask which is the terrorist: a country which imposes its ideas on a people with marines and guns and interferes in their affairs, or another country, which is holding talks with nationalist and Islamic leaders? To which of these sides is the "terrorist" label more suitable?

4. It is a fact that Tehran has become the center of the Islamic revolution and a beacon of hope for Muslims and freedom movements. It is natural that they should come to Tehran and hold their meetings in Tehran. According to the mufti of Sidon, Iran is the central capital of the Islamic ummah.

Iqbal Lahuri predicted 60 years ago that Tehran would become the Geneva of the East. He said: If one day Tehran becomes the Geneva of the East, the fate of the world will be turned upside down. Just as Geneva has been a forum for nations to solve their disputes, Tehran will play the same role for Islamic nations. It is worth mentioning that, for as long as the issues of Lebanon and Palestine remain unsolved, Iran will be a supporter of oppressed peoples, try to solve their problems, and place

at the disposal of independent nationalist and Islamic groups everything that it can.

Cooperation Memorandum With Syria Initialled

LD0111175789 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov 1, IRNA—Iran and Syria inked a letter of understanding for bilateral cooperation and exchange of experts, at the end of the five-day visit of the Syrian minister of labour and social affairs here today.

The letter was signed during the third round of talks between the Iranian Labor Minister Hoseyn Kamali and his Syrian counterpart Haydar Buzu.

While in Iran, Buzu met with First Vice-President Hasan Habibi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Foruzesh and Head of the Disabled Foundation Mohsen Rafiqdust.

Buzu was taken around several cultural-educational sites in Tehran, Karaj and Esfahan, and also visited such industries as the Iran-Khodrow car manufacturing plant (Tehran), the Haft-Tappeh agro-industrial complex and the Pars paper mill (Khuzestan Province).

The Syrian minister left for Damascus this afternoon, and was visibly satisfied with the results of his visit to the Islamic Republic.

Trade, Defense Ministers Meet USSR's Katushev

LD0111175389 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA—The 12th Tehran-Moscow joint economic commission is likely to be held in late December in Tehran.

The above was announced at the first round of talks between Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade Konstantin Katushev and Iranian Minister of Economic and financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh here Wednesday.

The two sides also placed emphasis on expansion of Irano-Soviet relations as well as implementation of joint development projects in the Islamic Republic.

The Soviet official who arrived here this morning, also had a meeting with Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics Akbar Torkan.

Torkan said prospects are bright for future relations and industrial cooperation with the Soviet Union. "We have created a giant and efficient defense industry by merging military industries of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and the Army," he added.

In response, Katushev laid weight on Tehran-Moscow cooperation in various fields.

Japan 'Making Excuses' About Chemical Deal

PM0111111189 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 18 Oct 89 pp 8, 32

[Editorial: "The Effects of Political Tendencies on the Achievement of Economic Might"]

[Text] Last week, by mutual agreement, the joint cooperation between Iran and Japan to complete the petrochemical plant at Bandar-e Khomeyni ended. It was decided that the Japanese side would pay the Iranian partners $1 billion and pull out of the enormous deal. The Iranian Government has meanwhile announced that it intends to complete the huge project. It has started negotiations with several European and South Korean companies, including the Dutch firm Lamas, with which it has reached agreement to complete part of the project.

The petrochemical project has gone through many ups and downs during the years before and since the revolution. It has provoked mixed reaction both inside and outside the country. A look at these issues would be useful at this time:

1. The creation of a petrochemical industry in Iran during the shah's regime was at the top of the agenda, based on an imperialist policy of expanding control over Third World countries. This was part of a policy of industrializing those countries which had vast natural resources, a strategic position, and cheap manpower and, more important than all of these, those countries which were moving in accordance with the aggressors' wishes.

Keeping in mind the fact that Iran had the raw materials for a petrochemical industry, namely oil, the creation of this project for a country like Iran was of the utmost importance. It would provide the basic materials for the country's important and major factories, which were build in accordance with policies intended to keep the nation dependent. The project, once completed, would give Iran the chance to produce materials which were useless inside the country and were designed solely for export. It is clear that to create such economic capabilities in a country followed the Western line in politics as well. If thgere is a regime like the Islamic revolutionary one in power, which is completely hostile toward oppressive Western policies, of course the West will try to weaken that regime, militarily and economically. It will prevent projects that will strengthen Iran's economy. A perfect example of this is the recent case of the petrochemical plant.

2. The petrochemical deal was signed with Japan in 1971. Until 1976 there were only preliminary studies. In 1976 the Japanese completed 85 percent of the project in 18 months. But with the coming of the revolution, despite assurances from the Revolutionary Council, the Japanese continued to make excuses for not completing the project. This in itself showed Japan's servitude toward U.S. regional and world policies.

During the war the Japanese refused to work on the plant, and made excuses about security. They did not

even put pressure on Iraq not to bomb the plant in which Japan itself had a major share. Perhaps it would not be hard to accept Japan's excuses during the war, but after the war what excuse could there be, other than Japan's intention to follow U.S. policies regarding Iran? This is one fact which even the Japanese ambassador in Tehran has admitted. He told an Iranian newspaper: In political issues I feel it is possible that U.S. policy toward Iran has had an effect on Japan's policy toward Iran. Of course, Mr Ambassador did not want to admit that in other issues than politics Japanese policy is definitely, and not potentially, affected by U.S. policy.

3. The Japanese said that the reason why they did not wish to complete the project was because it was uneconomical and had technical as well as security problems. Since most of the work on the plant has been completed, and keeping in mind the enormous profits to be gained from the plant once it started to operate, one can be sure that the excuses mentioned by the Japanese were not of a technical nature, but rather a clear indication that Japan is toeing the American line.

Saudi Arabia is at the moment benefitting from huge petrochemical plants because it has aligned its policies with those of the aggressors. It exports petroleum by-products as well as materials for industry. Clearly, the startup of a petrochemical plant in Iran and the exports from this field could damage Saudi Arabian and Western profits, turning the Islamic Republic into their rival. Place this factor alongside American pressure, and it becomes obvious that the Japanese are just making excuses. It is also quite probable that the reactionary regimes have put conditions on their cooperation with Japanese firms, providing for the Japanese to pull out of the important deals that they have with the Islamic Republic.

4. This action of the Japanese must be like a direct message to officials, groups, and political bodies. For our officials it must be clear now that basically the Islamic revolution cannot compromise with the West and its allies. The Westerners will continue to make problems for Islamic Iran unless officials here put aside the revolution's principles. They will create obstacles in order to prevent Iran from becoming powerful in all fields, including the economic field.

It would be proper for officials to use all foreign means at our disposal—as long as we can and as long as our revolution's principles are not damaged—but the emphasis should be on internal experts. By providing the correct mix of dedication and expertise in our own workforce, with technology from outside, they should provide the groundwork for economic growth. They should give up the idea that any country, especially in the West, will do anything for us without having political aims.

On the other hand the political groups, especially those which were against the completion of the Japanese petrochemical project, considering it a step toward becoming close to the West, should realize that they have been walking in their sleep. The truth of the matter is that if the completion of this half-done project had been in the West's long-term interest, the West would have completed it. Their slow work and final abandonment of the project shows that the revolution's hold on power and its ability to use such plants to provide for the country are in the final analysis damaging to the West and their lackies in the region. The completion of the plant is in the interest of the country. They sacrificed their short-term profits and refused to do something imoportant for the Islamic Republic, especially since the plant's future is uncertain and it is doubtful that it can be utilized in the manner predicted.

Those who think that the revolution has forgotten its principal values and is moving closer to the West should see the West's continued hostility. They must be sure that, for every step that the revolution takes to get closer to them, they will have to take several steps to get closer to the revolution. This Western hospitality also indicates that the officials are taking the correct line of action to safeguard the values and principles laid down by the imam.

New Provincial Governors Announced 1 Nov

LD0111212589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] In today's cabinet meeting, the proposals of executive organizations were discussed in the political-defense committee [as heard] of the cabinet. On the proposal of the interior minister and with the approval of the cabinet, the following appointments were made: Hamid Hadi-'Abdol Vahhab as the governor general of Kordestan Province; 'Alireza Tabesh as the governor general of Gilan; and 'Ali Naqi Jahromi as the governor general of Hamedan.

Maldives

Last 162 Indian Troops To Leave 3 Nov

BK0111144189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 1 (AFP)—The last of 1,200 Indian troops rushed to the Maldives last year to crush an attempted coup backed by Sri Lankan mercenaries will leave the country Friday [3 November], a government spokesman said here Wednesday.

The spokesman said the 162 Indian troopers who had stayed on the islands at the request of President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom would fly out after an official ceremony November 3, the first anniversary of the coup attempt. He said President Gayoom had decreed the date "victory day".

The pre-dawn coup attempt failed the evening of the day it began when the Maldivian and Sri Lankan Tamils who launched it heard by radio that the Indian troops were

headed for the islands. The plotters and their backers snatched 58 hostages and fled by ship before being chased and rounded up by the Indian Navy on the high seas.

Twelve Tamils and four Maldivians were later sentenced to death for their role in the attempt, which resulted in at least 20 deaths. They were pardoned by the president in September.

Indian Spokesman on Withdrawal

BK0111171289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] The remaining contingent of 162 Indian troops stationed in the Maldives will be given a ceremonial send off on Friday [3 November]. The Maldivian Government has also decided to observe the day as victory day to commemorate the victorious action on this day last year when an attack by merceneries to topple the government was thwarted with India's assistance.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that this will be the final phase of de-induction of troops which began on 4 November last year after about 1,200 Indian troops were rushed to the island to put down the attempted coup against Gayoom government. He said the small contingent had stayed back to help in training the Maldivian security personnel.

Pakistan

Reaction to Result of No-Confidence Vote

Opposition Terms Vote 'Victory'

BK0111164189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 1 (AFP)—Pakistan's parliamentary opposition on Wednesday [1 November] accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of committing "irregularities" to defeat a no-confidence motion and vowed to continue pressing for a change.

The opposition leaders also rejected Ms. Bhutto's offer of sharing power with what she called "sober elements" in the opposition as an attempt to divided it.

"It is not going to stay for long," said the leader of the Combined Opposition Parties (COP) Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, referring to the pro-government result. "COP has won it today," he said.

The opposition needed 119 votes to have an absolute majority in the 237-member national assembly and carry its motion, but received only 107, a deficit of 12. Opponents of the motion were not required to cast ballots.

Ms. Bhutto received 148 votes when she was elected prime minister 11 months ago.

The opposition had claimed to have more than enough votes to win but was apparently expecting defections that did not materialize, analysts said.

Mr. Jatoi, speaking to the narrowness of the government's victory on the no-confidence measure, said that 22 deputies were brought briefly to the Parliament as a "showpiece" but were later whisked away to the Prime Minister's Office when the vote began.

"If the 22 MPs [members of Parliament] had been allowed to stay in the house, it would have been crystal clear that she had no more than 108 votes," Mr. Jatoi said.

He reiterated the opposition's charges of corruption, nepotism and other malpractices, and said by not allowing the MP's the free use of their vote Ms. Bhutto had committed "irregularities and rigging."

Mr. Jatoi said he accepted the verdict of the House, "but fact is fact and the nation has to be informed." He said the "slim margin" of victory demonstrated the opposition's strength.

"We have laid to rest her propaganda" on enjoying a majority in parliament, Mr. Jatoi said, adding the vote "was a major victory and a major breakthrough" in the opposition's campaign to unseat her. He said that the opposition would "continue to press for a chance to remove the inept government."

Imran Farooq, whose Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) is strong in Sind Province, said the government was planning a "victimisation of its members by resorting to a policy of revenge" after his group's split with PPP [Pakistan People's Party]. The MQM had been part of the government but broke away to join the opposition's no-confidence effort.

The main opposition leader, Punjab's Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, said that a "mass arrest" was planned in Sind and he warned of serious repercussions. "We will respond to stones with bricks," said Mr. Sharif, who heads the conservative Islamic Democratic Alliance.

He said confrontation between his Punjab government and Ms. Bhutto's central government would continue unless she changed her policies.

Asked about the possibility of joining a national reconciliation government, he said that "we have rejected it before and we reject it again."

Bhutto-Jatoi News Conferences

BK0111160589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Addressing a news conference after the conclusion of the National Assembly session [today], Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said now that the no-confidence motion has been resolved, it is the duty of the government and the opposition to review the situation and only do things that are in the interest of democracy and the

country. Benazir Bhutto said the government has already been in touch with the serious elements of the opposition in order to arrive at a consensus, so that the government can pay attention to the people's welfare.

She offered assurances that no retaliatory action will be taken against the Islamic Democratic Alliance government in Punjab and hoped that the Punjab government will also refrain from taking negative steps and that it will assist in creating a congenial atmosphere for improving Center-province relations.

Referring to her meeting with the president yesterday evening, the prime minister said she informed him of the current situation and the apprehensions of various quarters about today's no-confidence motion in the National Assembly. The president assured her of his total support for the success of the present democratic system. Benazir Bhutto expressed her government's determination to strengthen democratic institutions and restore peace and order in the country.

Benazir Bhutto ruled out new elections at this time and said the result of today's no-confidence motion has proven that the government enjoys the majority.

Answering another question, the prime minister did not rule out a cabinet reshuffle in the near future.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the leader of the Combined Opposition Party in the National Assembly, said that the result of the no-confidence motion has shaken the government.

Answering a question, Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was present on the occasion, said that he is ready to hold negotiations with the government only at a meeting of the Council of Common Interests.

Baluchistan Chief Minister Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti was also present at the news conference.

Jatoi Remarks to National Assembly

BK0111164989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The National Assembly today defeated the no-confidence motion by the opposition against the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto. The opposition was able to muster 107 votes in a House of 237. Members of the ruling party were also present in the House. [passage omitted]

Speaking on the motion, the prime minister said she is in the National Assembly because she is the democratically-elected leader of the people. She is not here as a result of anyone's favor.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] is still the only party with a nationwide following. It is this party which is keeping all the four provinces united and keeping the people on a single platform. The prime minister denied the opposition allegation that her government is trying to form a unitary type of government or it wishes to take away provincial powers. She said she wanted a federal government: nothing more, nothing less. The powers of the federal and provincial governments have been clearly laid down. The prime minister said the provinces are welcome to exercise their rights and powers but criticized the tendency of state within state.

Commenting on the opposition criticism in foreign affairs field, the prime minister said the success of her government policies is illustrated by the fact that it had bought 60 F-16 aircraft from the United States with its own resources, while the previous government could buy only 40 aircraft financed by American assistance. She said her party started the Siachen talks, (?the attempt of) which was not even mentioned by the previous government which called that territory useless.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said work on Wular Barrage was started by India during the previous regime but she got it stopped to safeguard the interests of the country. The previous government kept quiet when the question of vital national interest was involved, including the construction of Salal Dam by India, the nuclear reprocessing plant and the proposed agreement on the Durand Line between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Seeking cooperation of the entire House, the prime minister said all should join hands in strengthening democracy.

Earlier, initiating the debate on the no-confidence motion, the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi accused the government of inefficiency and corruption and held it responsible for the deteriorating law and order situation in the country. He said the People's Party over the last 10 months had failed in fulfilling its commitment made to the people during the time of elections.

Other opposition members who took part in the discussion were Mawlana Fazlur Rahman, Dr Imran Farooq, and Syeda Abida Hussain.

Announcing the results, the speaker, Malik Mairaj Khalid, paid rich compliments to both sides of the house for conducting themselves with decorum and dignity and said this proves that democracy had a great future in the country. The assembly has been prorogued.

2 Killed, 3 Injured in Violence

BK0111162589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1612 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Karachi, Nov 1 (AFP)—At least two persons were killed and three injured here Wednesday [1 November] evening in violence sparked by the government's defeat of a no-confidence motion in Pakistan's Parliament. Clashes were reported in the streets and in the jail, and Army units were seen assisting police.

Police said two people were killed and one critically wounded in a drive-by shooting at a restaurant where diners were eating. Police said the injured person was in

a coma. Gunmen riding in a red jeep and a white car opened fire indiscriminately in the Abyssinya District, a lower-middle-class neighborhood, police said. One of the dead was a former sailor in the Pakistan Navy. Police said no arrest was possible.

Witnesses said two persons were also injured in central Karachi when angry supporters of Pakistan's opposition set fire to a bus and exchanged gunfire with police after setting alight tyres to block traffic, witnesses said.

The trouble started when a bus bound for Hyderabad was set on fire, they said, adding that the cause of the incident was not known. When police failed to tame the situation, witnesses said Army patrols appeared on the scene and were guarding sensitive areas.

The area is dominated by the supporters of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), representing Urdu-speaking settlers of Indian origin settled in Pakistan.

Tension ran high as supporters of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) expressed their jubilation in a guarded way when they converged on Bilawal House, her Karachi residence, chanting slogans supporting her leadership, witnesses said.

The MQM was apparently dissappointed by the opposition parties' failure to unseat Ms. Bhutto's government. The MQM recently parted ways with the ruling PPP and signed an accord with the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance to oust her government.

PPP and MQM supporters also clashed at Karachi's central prison early Wednesday after a heated argument between the factions "turned violent." Jail sources said some prisoners received minor injuries but that the situation had been brought under control. The prisoners, in jail on various charges, were locked in different barracks after the fray, the sources said.

President Satisfied With Proceedings

BK0211111889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has expressed satisfaction over the orderly manner in which the National Assembly proceedings were conducted in dealing with the no-confidence motion yesterday. He was talking to the leader of the combined opposition in the assembly, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, who called on him in Islamabad today. The president also expressed satisfaction over the dignified and sober manner in which the verdict of the House was received by both sides in true spirit of democracy.

Sri Lanka

Forces 'Ordered' To Destroy Private Armies

BK0211072389 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Colombo, Nov 2 (AFP)—Sri Lankan security forces have been ordered to destroy unauthorised militant groups, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said here Thursday amid reports of a Tamil militia build-up on the island.

Mr. Wijeratne, who is also the junior defence minister, said the chief minister of the Tamil-majority North-eastern Provincial Council had denied local press reports that paramilitary forces were replacing Indian troops.

The chief minister, Varadharaja Perumal, denied the allegation Wednesday and will be giving a press conference himself to correct the reports, the minister said at the weekly press briefing.

Local reports have said a so-called Tamil National Army (TNA) had moved into the eastern Ampara region after some 4,000 Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) troops moved out of the area last month.

"Private armies of whatever colour, creed or community will not be tolerated. Severe action will be taken against them. Orders have gone out to police and army to capture them. If they confront the Armed Forces, they are liable to be destroyed," Mr. Wijeratne said.

He warned that if there were any illegal forces, they should immediately surrender their arms to security forces and disband or face death.

He said India's top military commander in Sri Lanka, Lieutenent General Amarjit Singh Kalkat, had denied arming any Sri Lakans in the island's northeast where the IPKF is deployed.

The dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), had refused to participate in a peace conference to forge unity among rival Tamil groups accusing India of raising an illegal paramilitary force.

"The LTTE seems to have a legitimate grouse. We will convey to the LTTE the chief minister's denial. The LTTE on their own can check and verify," Mr. Wijeratne said.

He said the Indian military pullout from the northeast was going ahead as scheduled and he was hopeful that the entire foreign army could leave by the December 31 deadline agreed upon by both countries.

The entire 4,000-strong IPKF has left Ampara region and the next area to be vacated will be neighbouring Batticaloa. He said New Delhi had taken back about 8,000 troops since July reducing the IPKF strength to about 36,000 men.

He said dates for the withdrawal from Batticaloa had not yet been fixed and the number of troops involved was not immediately known.

The Sri Lankan police and the Citizens' Volunteer Force (CVF) of the Northeastern Provincial Council backed by the local security forces will replace the IPKF in Batticaloa, the minister said.

The IPKF was deployed in Sri Lanka under a July 1987 bilateral peace pact aimed at ending a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.